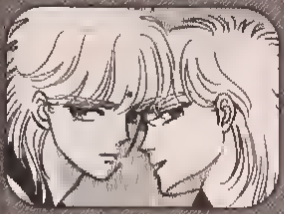
# CIPHER

Volume 5

By Minako Narita



## Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy) identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success. Now, they share not just a face, but a single identity. Trading off attending school and acting auditions, it is nearly impossible to tell them apart. Or is it?

## Anise

Schoolmate and good friend of Siva (Jake) and Cipher (Roy). She is the twins' only contemporary who knows the truth behind their secret. Although she is close with both brothers, it seems that something more is growing between her and Cipher.

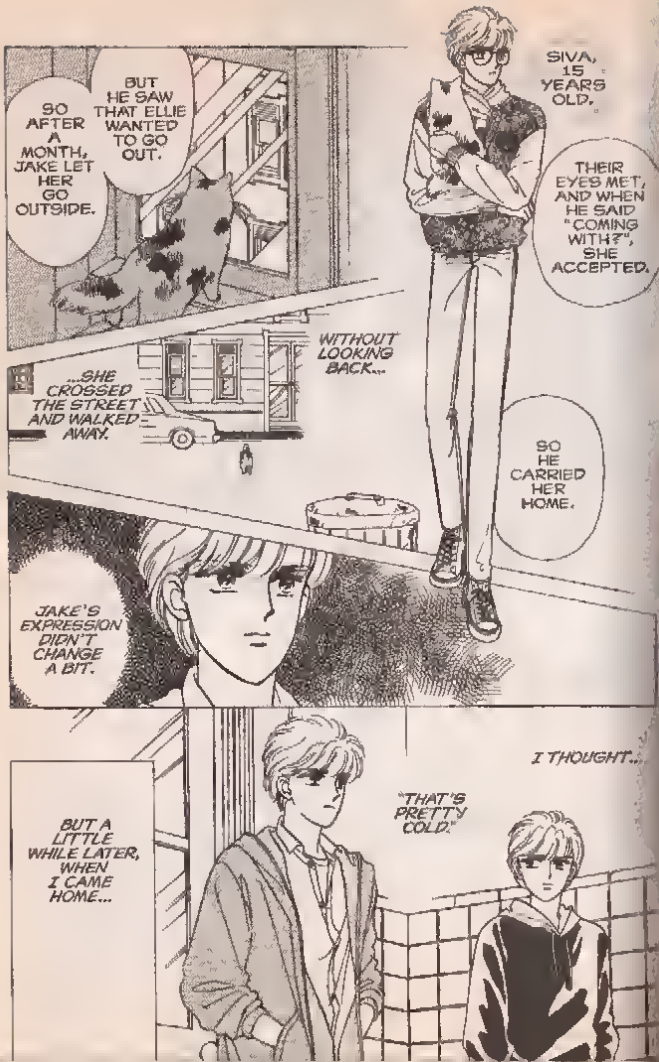
## The Story So Far

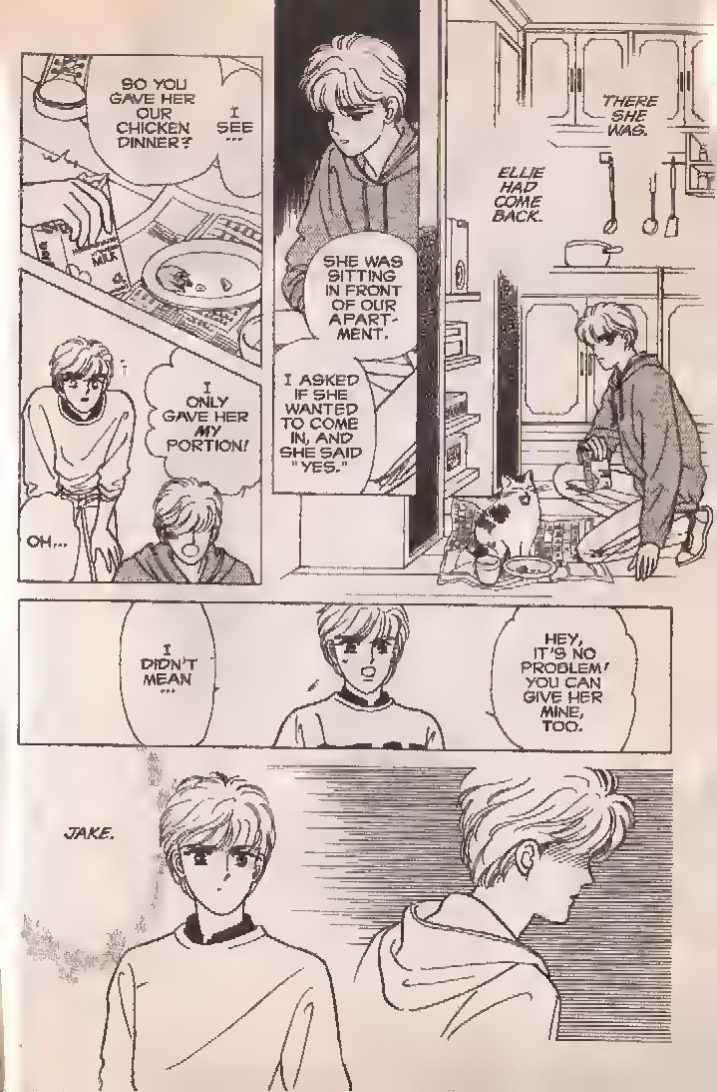
After a strained period in their relationship, Roy (Cipher) and Anise appear to be patching things up, although neither seems willing to admit the real depth of their feelings for each other. This has led to some tension between Anise and Ruth, their friend from school, who apparently has bigger plans for Cipher–friendship will not be enough. Then Roy takes a big step in his relationship with Anise by confessing to his past issues with drug abuse.

Meanwhile, Roy and Jake (Siva) have announced their intention to begin living separate lives, as Jake plans to quit acting and go to college after they graduate. Roy wants to continue acting and has been getting some work under his own name. Anise never learned the real reason why they tried sharing one identity in the first place, but now she has some concerns about their apparent decision to finally put an end to this public ruse.

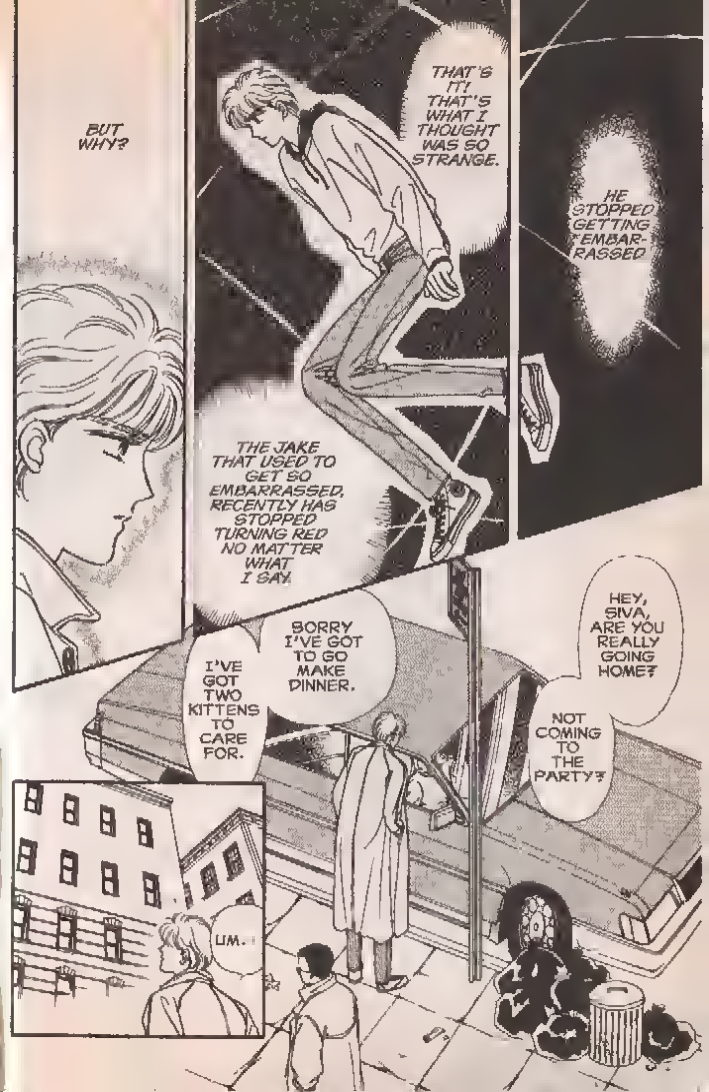
DON'T YOU WORK TODAY?
GREAT! THANKS!
NOPE. NO BABY-SITTING.
I GOT A PIZZA!
KACHAK
MORN-ING!
HE WENT OUT.
WHERE'S SIVA?
But I got some guitting !
AAAGH!
THUMP THUMP
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M HAPPY OR SCARED?
TODAY, I'M ALONE WITH CIPHER.
HE WENT OUT?
SO THAT MEANS ...

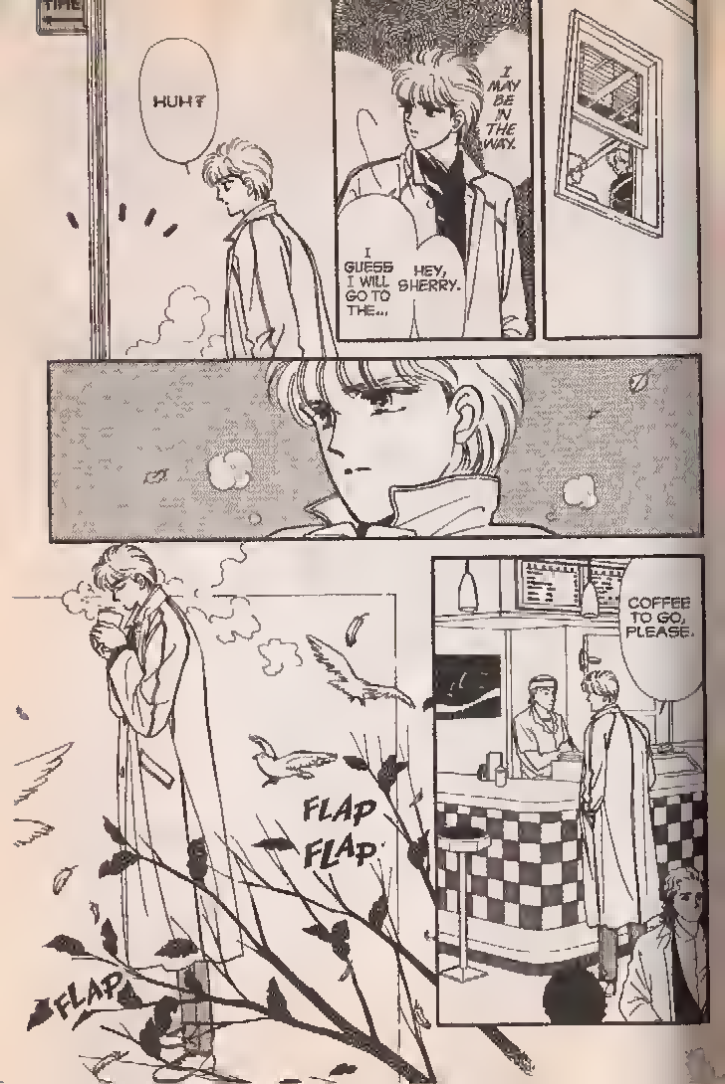
HEY, ANISE!
TH
THUMP
HA HA HA! WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? I LOVE IT!
IT'S AN EXTENSION.
I KEPT THE HAIR WHEN I GOT IT CUT, AND MADE IT MYSELF.
.....
HEE HEE HEE! IT'S LIKE A CAT'S TAIL!
WHOA! THIS IS REALLY FUNNY!
PICKED HER UP?
SIVA WAS THE ONE WHO PICKED HER UP.
WRONG
IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO GET ELLIE AS A PET, WASN'T IT?
?
LET ME GUESS.


SIVA, 15 YEARS OLD.
THEIR EYES MET, AND WHEN HE SAID "COMING WITH?", SHE ACCEPTED.
WITHOUT LOOKING BACK...
...SHE CROSSED THE STREET AND WALKED AWAY.
SO HE CARRIED HER HOME.
JAKE'S EXPRESSION DIDN'T CHANGE A BIT.
BUT HE SAW THAT ELLIE WANTED TO GO OUT.
SO AFTER A MONTH, JAKE LET HER GO OUTSIDE.
I THOUGHT...
"THAT'S PRETTY COLD."
BUT A LITTLE WHILE LATER, WHEN I CAME HOME...

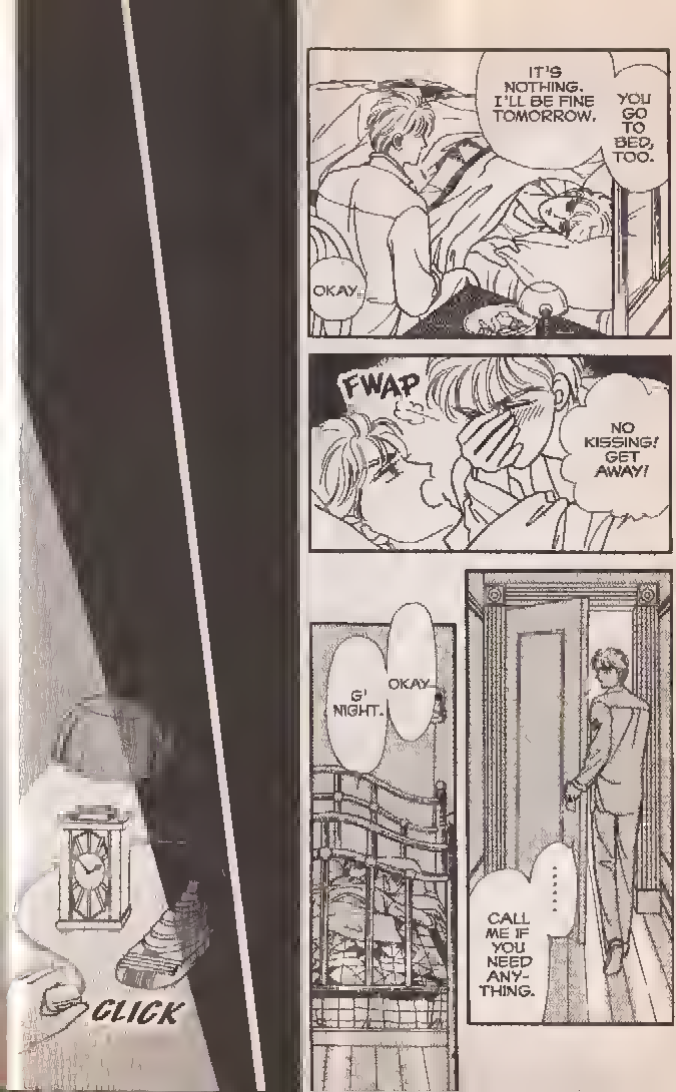

SO YOU GAVE HER OUR CHICKEN DINNER?
I SEE ...
I ONLY GAVE HER MY PORTION!
OH...
SHE WAS SITTING IN FRONT OF OUR APARTMENT.
I ASKED IF SHE WANTED TO COME IN, AND SHE SAID "YES."
THERE SHE WAS.
ELLIE HAD COME BACK.
I DIDN'T MEAN ...
HEY, IT'S NO PROBLEM! YOU CAN GIVE HER MINE, TOO.
JAKE.

...HE HAD TO HAVE FELT SOME REAL HEARTACHE.
JAKE WAS THE ONE WHO PICKED HER UP, RIGHT? AS HE WATCHED HER SCAMPER AWAY...
JAKE ...
BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW IT.
MAYBE HE'S EVEN MORE SELF-CONSCIOUS THAN I AM.
IT'S STRANGE. HE CAN BE REALLY SHY, SOMETIMES.
YOU SAY IT LIKE YOU THINK THAT'S SWEET.
HUH?
CIPHER?


BUT WHY?
THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT WAS SO STRANGE.
HE STOPPED GETTING EMBARRASSED
THE JAKE THAT USED TO GET SO EMBARRASSED, RECENTLY HAS STOPPED TURNING RED NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
HEY, SIVA, ARE YOU REALLY GOING HOME?
NOT COMING TO THE PARTY?
SORRY I'VE GOT TO GO MAKE DINNER.
I'VE GOT TWO KITTENS TO CARE FOR.
UM.


HUH?
I GUESS I WILL GO TO THE...
HEY, SHERRY.
I MAY BE IN THE WAY.
COFFEE TO GO, PLEASE.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

CLICK
WHAT, ARE YOU STILL UP?
I WAS WAITING.
YOU'RE LATE.
JAKE?
CLICK
GRROWL
GRRGY
EAT THIS, TAKE SOME MEDICINE AND GET SOME SLEEP!
AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY!
A COLD?!
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T FEEL LIKE COOKING OR EATING TONIGHT.
AFTER WALKING AROUND OUT THERE, I FEEL A COLD COMING ON.


IT'S NOTHING. I'LL BE FINE TOMORROW.
YOU GO TO BED, TOO.
OKAY...
FWAP
NO KISSING! GET AWAY!
OKAY.
G' NIGHT.
CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANY-THING.
.....
CLICK

OH MAN!
I FEEL AWFUL!
SIGH
KLAK KLAK
KLAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU.
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?!
WHAM
OH.
JUST GETTING SOME ICE WATER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M HERE FOR?!
GET BACK INTO BED!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
WSSSH
DRIP

I WAS TOO ROUGH.
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.
JUST GET TO BED, OKAY?
I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING SICK, TOO.
.....
THANK YOU.
NAH, THAT'S OKAY.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
OH, YES IT DOES!
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

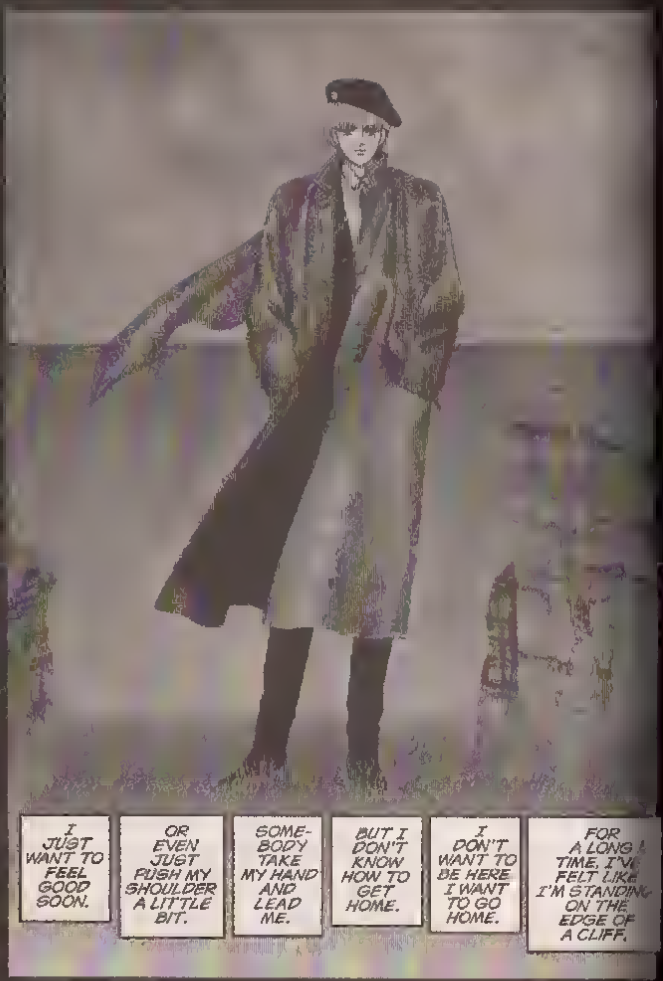
JUST AS A HYPOTHETICAL, IF YOU SAW ANISE AND ME HANGING FROM A CLIFF ...
... WHICH ONE WOULD YOU SAVE?
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A BROTHER COMPLEX.
YES, IT DOES ...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANISE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD BE SAYING TO ANISE.
YOU ...
.....
ANISE.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN HER.
I'D COME FOR YOU NEXT!
DON'T GET ME WRONG, JAKE!
IT'S BECAUSE ANISE IS A GIRL! THAT'S ONLY NATURAL, RIGHT?
THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
WHAT?! NO!
IDIOT.
IN A CASE LIKE THAT, IT MEANS YOU SAVE ONE PERSON AND THE OTHER ONE DIES.
I DIED.
TOO LATE.

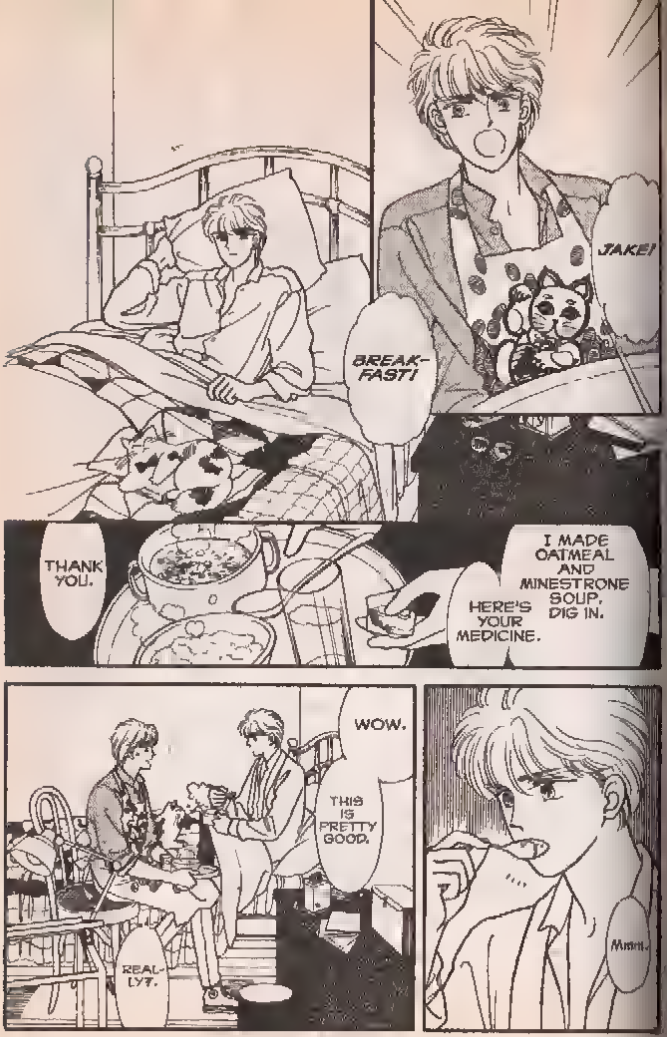
THEN I'D JUMP AFTER YOU.
DON'T MAKE UP THINGS LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT MAKING IT UP.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

IF ONE OF US FALLS APART BECAUSE THE OTHER IS GONE ...
...IT WILL PROBABLY BE ME.
GOOD NIGHT.
I'LL GET WELL LATER.
YOU'LL CATCH COLD.

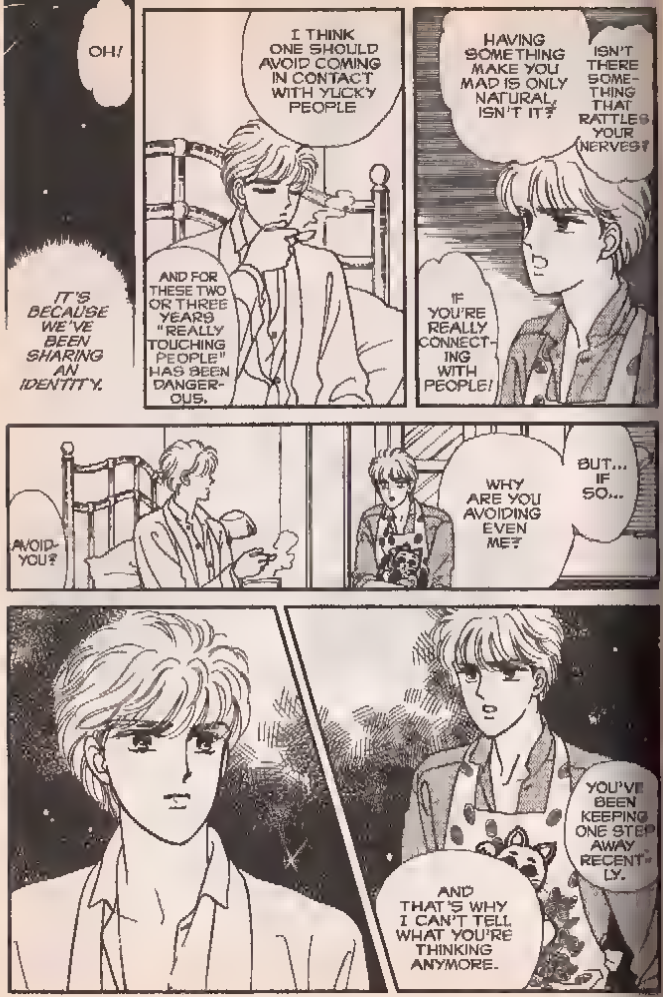
IT'S BECAUSE I WANT SOMEBODY WHO LOVES ME...
ABOVE ALL OTHERS.
IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE I LOVE ROY.
AND NOT BECAUSE I LOVE ANISE.

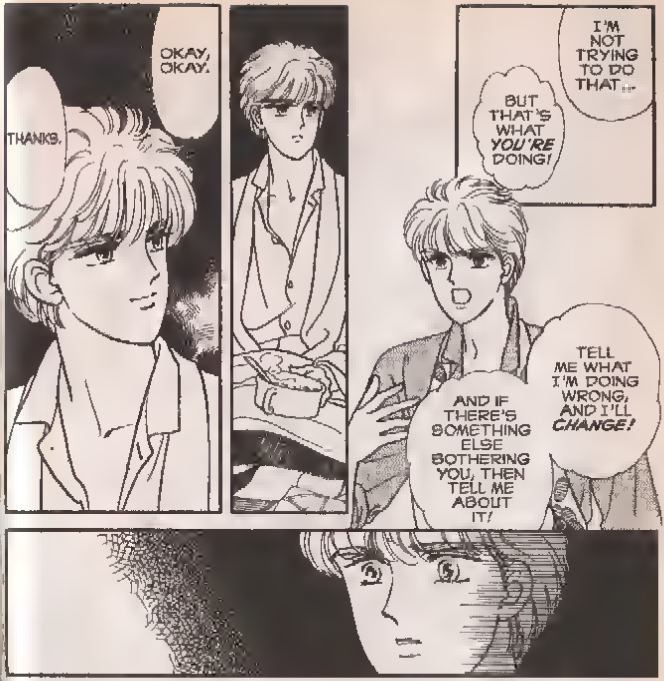

I JUST WANT TO FEEL GOOD SOON.
OR EVEN JUST PUSH MY SHOULDER A LITTLE BIT.
SOMEBODY TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME.
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HOME.
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE I WANT TO GO HOME.
FOR A LONG TIME, I'VE FELT LIKE I'M STANDING ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.

TICK
TOCK
TICK
TICK


JAKE!
BREAK-FAST!
I MADE OATMEAL AND MINESTRONE SOUP. DIG IN.
HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE.
THANK YOU.
WOW.
THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.
REAL-LY?
Mmm.

I GUESS YOU *CAN* LIVE BY YOURSELF.
UH... MAYBE YOU WANT ME TO GET OUT.
IT'S A COMPLIMENT.
WHAT ELSE WOULD IT BE?
IS IT A COMPLIMENT? OR..
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
NOT *THAT* AGAIN.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE MAD ABOUT.
WHY WOULD I SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
LIKE YOUR FEELINGS ARE HURT ABOUT SOMETHING.
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN KINDA STRANGE RECENTLY.
THAT'S WHAT'S STRANGE! THERE *IS* SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU, JAKE!


OH!
IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN SHARING AN IDENTITY.
I THINK ONE SHOULD AVOID COMING IN CONTACT WITH YUCKY PEOPLE
AND FOR THESE TWO OR THREE YEARS "REALLY TOUCHING PEOPLE" HAS BEEN DANGEROUS.
HAVING SOMETHING MAKE YOU MAD IS ONLY NATURAL, ISN'T IT?
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT RATTLES YOUR NERVES?
IF YOU'RE REALLY CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE!
AVOID YOU?
WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING EVEN ME?
BUT... IF SO...
AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ANYMORE.
YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING ONE STEP AWAY RECENTLY.

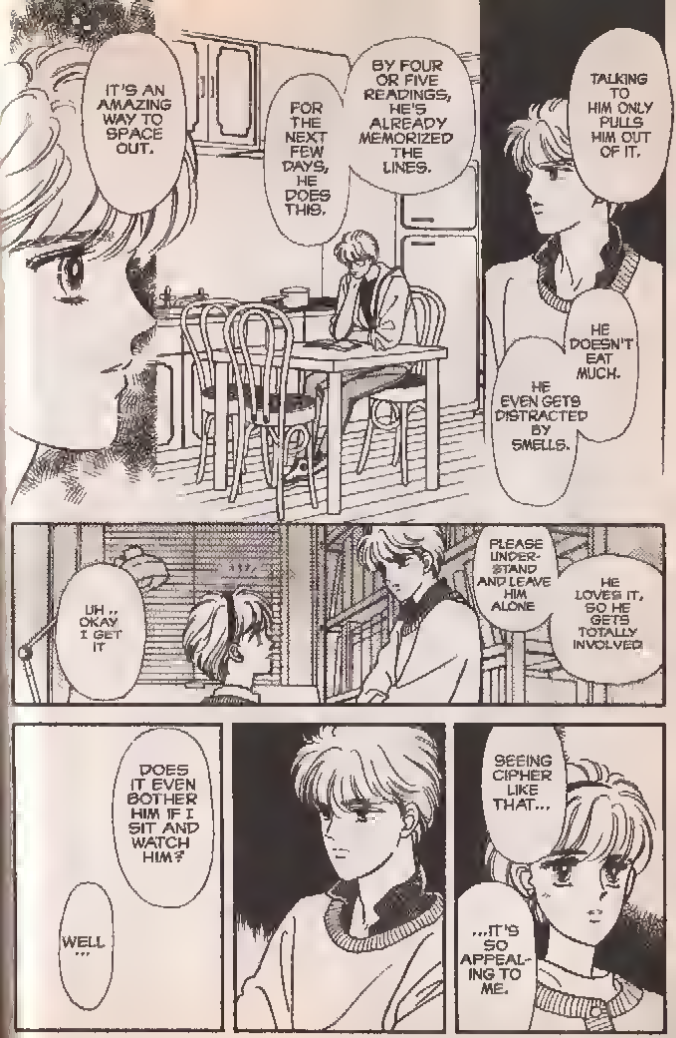

OKAY, OKAY.
THANKS.
I'M NOT TRYING TO DO THAT...
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
TELL ME WHAT I'M DOING WRONG, AND I'LL CHANGE!
AND IF THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERING YOU, THEN TELL ME ABOUT IT!

THAT'S NOT THE USUAL JAKE REACTION.
DOESN'T HE NOTICE IT HIMSELF?

I'M EXPECTING GREAT THINGS FROM YOU.
GOOD LUCK.
YEAH
YOU LANDED ANOTHER JOB, DIDN'T YOU?
ENOUGH ABOUT ME
HI, GUYS!
WHAT'S UP?
SLAM
HUH?

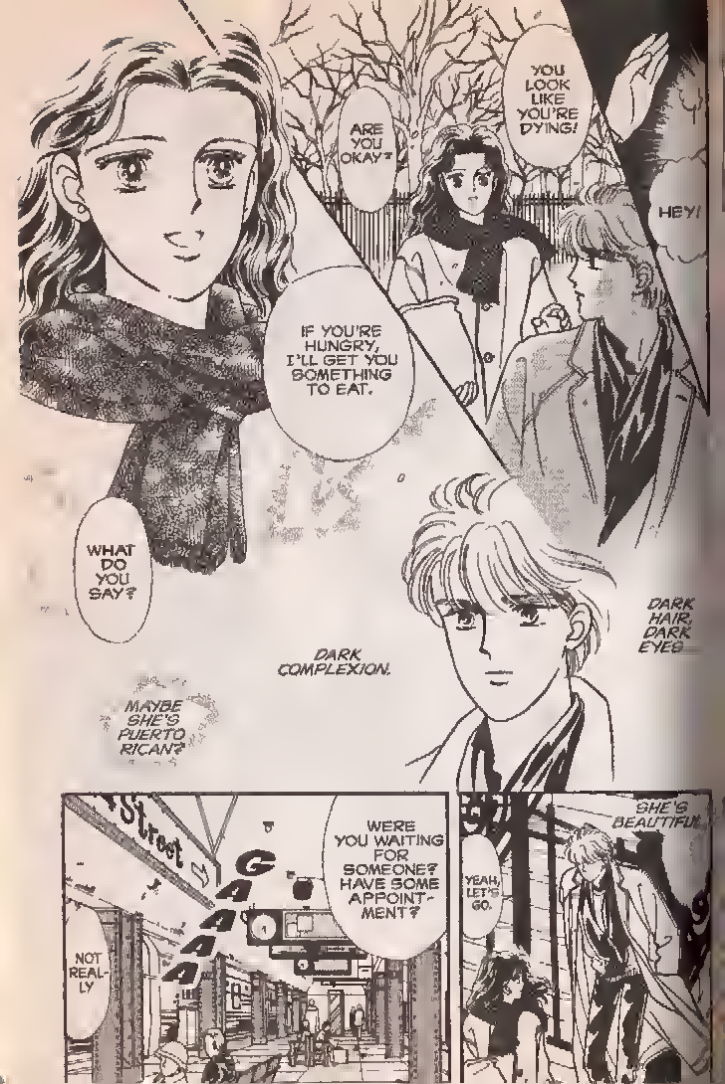
YOU SEE A BOOK, AND YOU ASSUME IT'S SIVA?
HUH?!
OH..
SIVA.. SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR STUDYING.
IS CIPHER HERE?
KISS!
..ARE YOU CIPHER?
YUP.
IS THAT A SCRIPT?
IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK?
SORRY BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK.
JUST THINK OF ME AS DEAD FOR A WHILE.

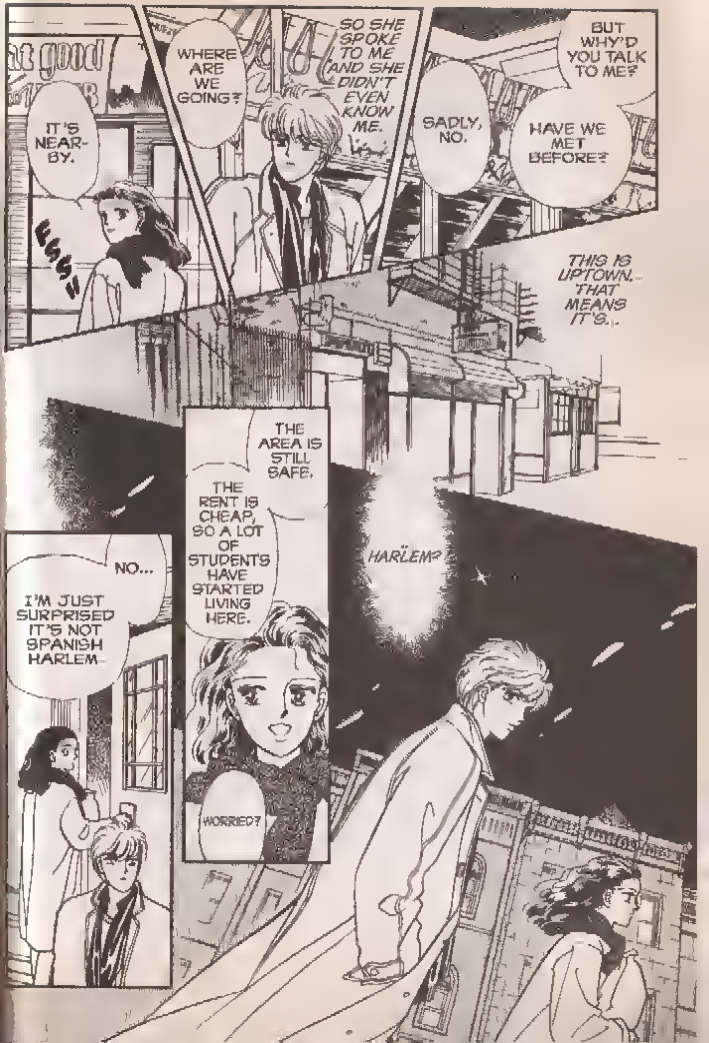
THAT YOU, ANISE?
HEY.
SILENCE
SSSSWH
SIVA! HOW'S YOUR COLD?
QUIET.
COME IN HERE.
SLAM
IS THAT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN ROY "TRIPPING?"
HE'S LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE WHEN HE HAS A SCRIPT.
TRIPPING?"
HE CREATES AN IMAGE OF THE CHARACTER IN HIS HEAD AND TRAVELS THROUGH THE STORY.
WHEN HE'S LIKE THAT, DAILY LIFE BECOMES A NUISANCE TO HIM.
HALF AWAKE, HALF ASLEEP
IT'S LIKE HE'S LOCKED AWAY INSIDE A DREAM


IT'S AN AMAZING WAY TO SPACE OUT.
FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE DOES THIS.
BY FOUR OR FIVE READINGS, HE'S ALREADY MEMORIZED THE LINES.
TALKING TO HIM ONLY PULLS HIM OUT OF IT.
HE DOESN'T EAT MUCH.
HE EVEN GETS DISTRACTED BY SMELLS.
UH ,, OKAY I GET IT
PLEASE UNDER-STAND AND LEAVE HIM ALONE
HE LOVES IT, SO HE GETS TOTALLY INVOLVED
DOES IT EVEN BOTHER HIM IF I SIT AND WATCH HIM?
WELL ...
SEEING CIPHER LIKE THAT...
...IT'S SO APPEAL-ING TO ME.

I'M SO TIRED.
BUT HE WON'T LET ME WATCH HIM.
HE WOULDN'T MIND IF IT WAS YOU.
OH.. ARE YOU GOING OUT?
UH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST TO RELAX. THE S.A.T. TEST IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
SLAM
SEE YOU LATER.

WHY IS IT?
NOT PHYSICALLY, REALLY. MORE MENTALLY.
ARE YOU FALLING APART?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, JAKE?


YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DYING!
ARE YOU OKAY?
HEY!
IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
DARK HAIR, DARK EYES
DARK COMPLEXION.
MAYBE SHE'S PUERTO RICAN?
WERE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE? HAVE SOME APPOINT-MENT?
NOT REAL-LY
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...
YEAH, LET'S GO.

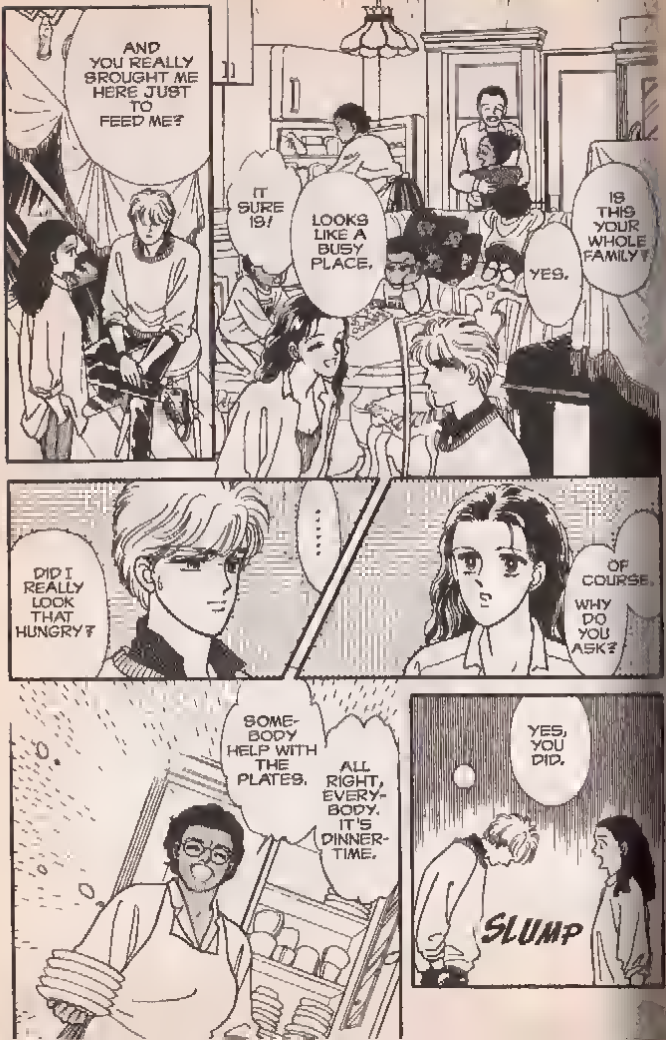

BUT WHY'D YOU TALK TO ME?
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
SADLY, NO.
SO SHE SPOKE TO ME AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IT'S NEARBY.
EASY!
THIS IS UPTOWN. THAT MEANS IT'S...
HARLEM?
THE AREA IS STILL SAFE.
THE RENT IS CHEAP, SO A LOT OF STUDENTS HAVE STARTED LIVING HERE.
WORRIED?
NO...
I'M JUST SURPRISED IT'S NOT SPANISH HARLEM

HEY, DANA!
WELCOME HOME, DANA!
WHAT, DID YOU THINK I WAS PUERTO RICAN?
AH, I SEE.
AREN'T YOU?
TMP TMP TMP
CLACK
ONLY HALF.
MY FATHER IS PUERTO RICAN.
DID YOU PICK UP A STRANGER AGAIN?
WHO'S THE GUEST?
Again?
Kyah!
BE QUIET, YOU LITTLE BRATS!
OH!
OOPS.
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK IN FRONT OF A GUEST, DANA.

I GOT THESE GREAT APPLES. HAVE SOME.
WOW! THANKS!
DANA CAN I COME IN?
SURE!
GIVE MY REGARDS TO BIG MAMA AND JEFFREY.
TWINS!
RUN DMC
YOUR NEIGH-BOR?
SLAM
YES. SAME BUILDING.
HEY, DANA!
YOU'RE FINALLY HOME?!
WHAM
OH, THANKS!
YOU'RE PRETTIER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU!
HERE ARE TODAY'S FLOWERS!

CULTURES OF THE WORLD SERIES, NO. 3
U.K.
I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT CALENDARS AND CHARACTER MERCHANDISE YOU CAN ORDER COMICS-CARDS, CALENDARS AND OTHER MERCHANDISE FROM ANY RETAILER. LALA EDITIONS AREN'T USUALLY REPRINTED, SO THE ONLY THING TO DO IS LOOK IN SHOPS FOR REMAINING STOCK OR BUY THEM FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEM. ARTISTS DON'T SELL THIS STUFF THEMSELVES, SO THE ONLY ONES I HAVE ARE MY OWN PERSONAL COLLECTION.
(CMX EDITOR NOTE: ABOVE INFORMATION IS REPRINTED FROM ORIGINAL CIPHER EDITION AND IS PROBABLY NO LONGER VALID.)
THERE AREN'T TOO MANY HARDCORE PUNKS ANYMORE, SO HERE'S A PICTURE OF THE PET SHOP BOYS.
Are you smoking, kids?
SLAM
OKAY, YOU GOT IT!
DO THAT SONG AGAIN TONIGHT, DANA!
Sharing All My Love For You
YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
HE DELIVERS FOR A FLOWER SHOP. HE BRINGS LEFTOVERS EVERY DAY.
GOD, NO. JUST A FRIEND FROM UPSTAIRS.
WELL, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU'D GIVE FLOWERS TO IF YOU COULD?
EVERY DAY?!

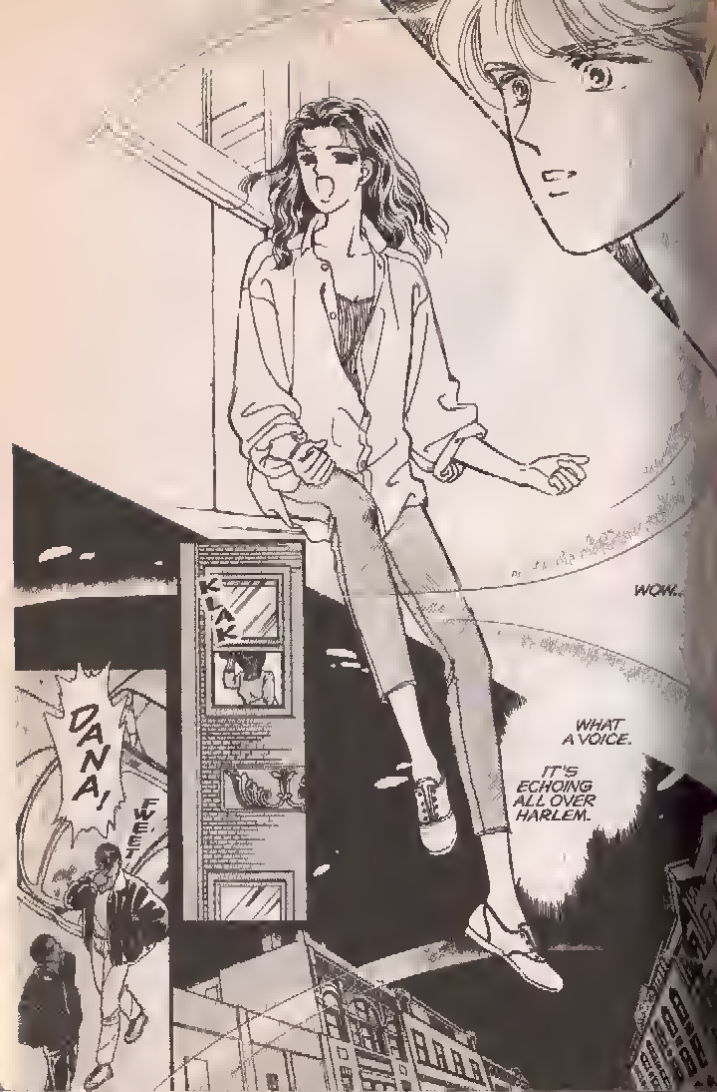
HELLO!
I'M HOME!
THERE MUST BE SOME-ONE.
GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
YOU CAN HAVE SOME OF THESE WHEN YOU GO HOME.
MAMA! YOU'RE BACK!
MAMA!
I'M HOME, KIDS!
PAPA!
DON'T BE SO FORMAL! JOIN US FOR DINNER!
RELAX! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!
WHAP
WELL! WELCOME TO OUR HOME, HANDSOME!
I BROUGHT A GUEST.
UH... THANK YOU, MA'AM.

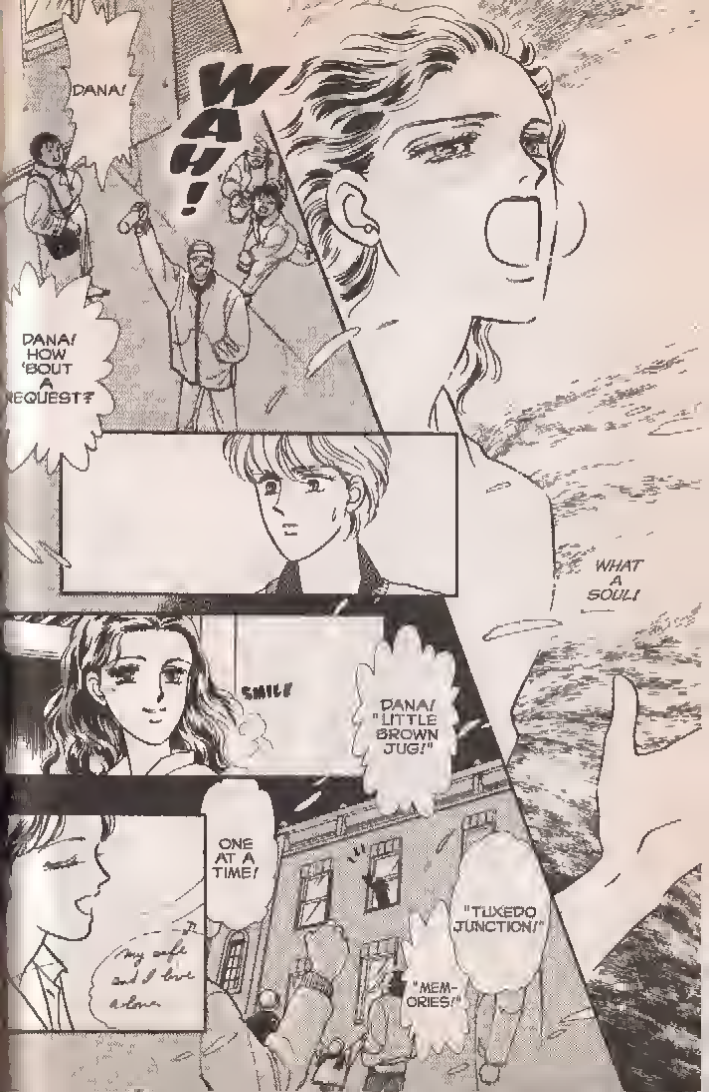

AND YOU REALLY BROUGHT ME HERE JUST TO FEED ME?
IT SURE IS!
LOOKS LIKE A BUSY PLACE.
YES.
IS THIS YOUR WHOLE FAMILY?
DID I REALLY LOOK THAT HUNGRY?
.....
OF COURSE. WHY DO YOU ASK?
SOME-BODY HELP WITH THE PLATES.
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-BODY. IT'S DINNER-TIME.
YES, YOU DID.
SLUMP

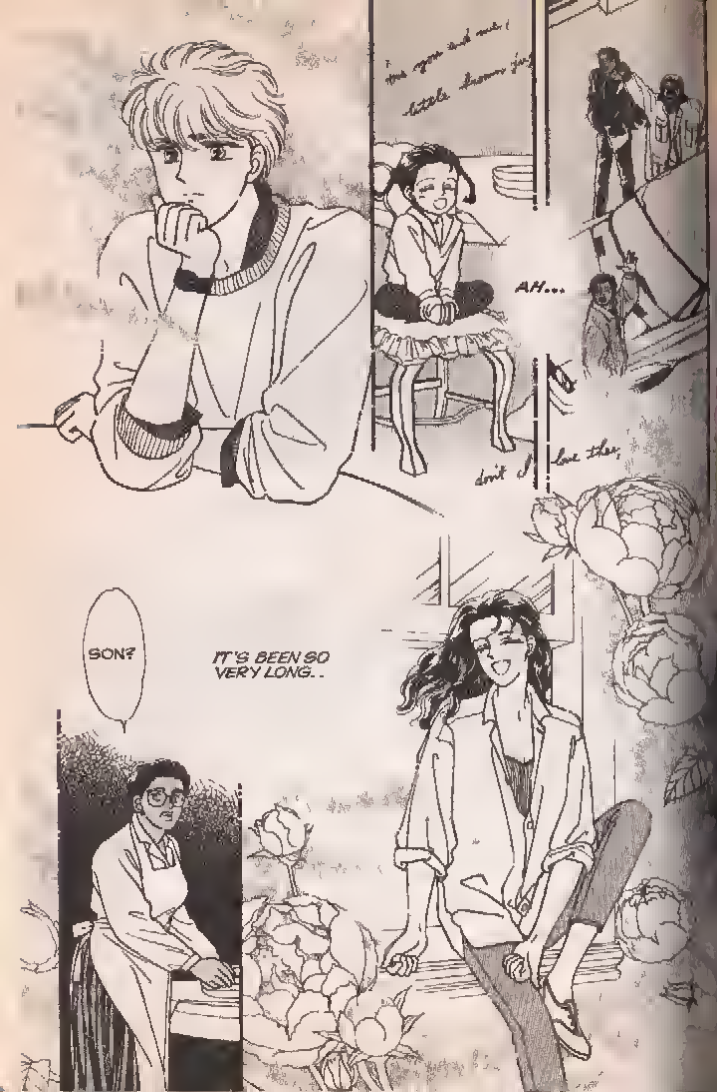
DAILY NEWS
TOO LATE FOR CHAR.
OKAY, MAMA.
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLATES, MARINA.
MOVE THAT NEWSPAPER!
UH... THANKS.
HERE.
TAKE ALL YOU WANT.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
...SINCE I'VE HAD A DINNER LIKE THIS.

PLINK
GLITTER
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
HOW ABOUT SOME AFTER-DINNER MUSIC?
YEAH!
LA!
LAAAA
SHE GREW UP SINGING GOSPEL.
REALLY?
THAT'S QUITE A VOICE.

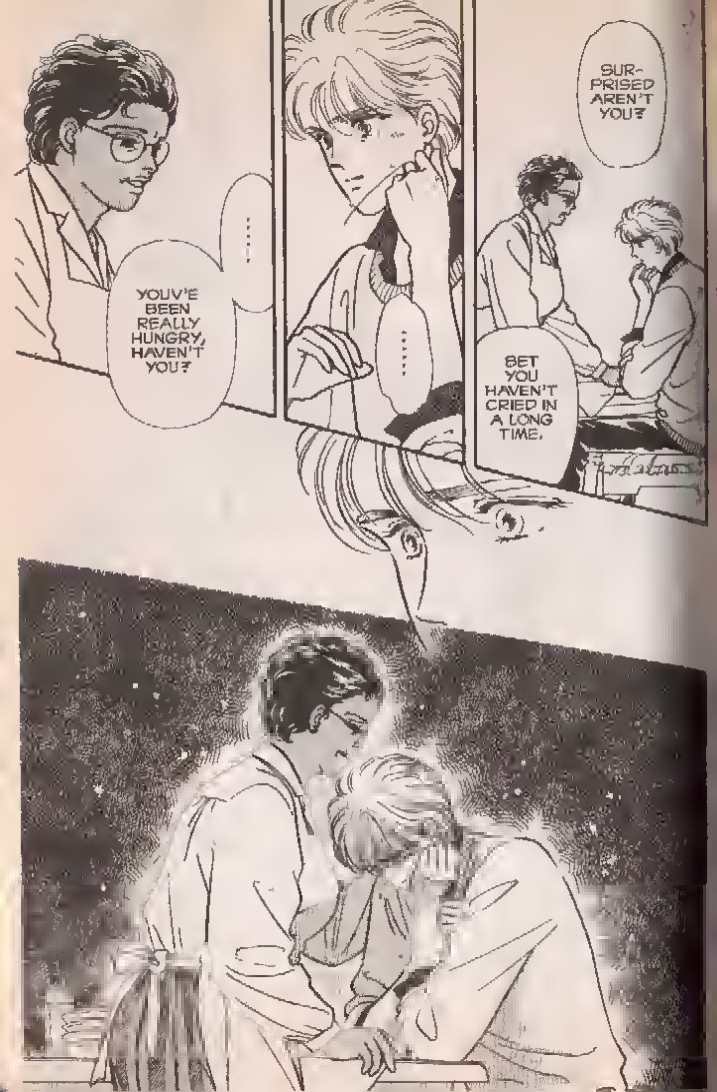
NO PRO-BLEM!
DON'T THE NEIGH-BORS COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS?
THEY'RE ONLY MINOR PARTS, BUT I'VE ALWAYS GOT WORK.
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO AUDITIONS TRYING TO GET JOBS.
WOW!
OKAY.
KA-
LET'S START OFF WITH "SAVING ALL MY LOVE," DAD.

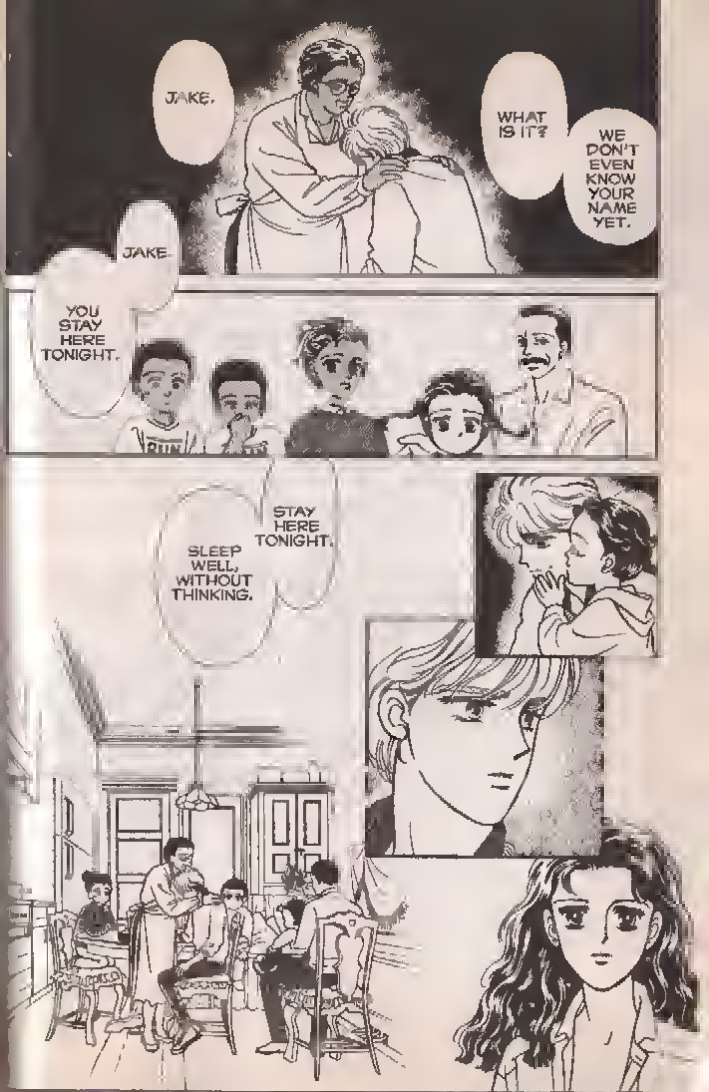

WOW...
WHAT A VOICE.
IT'S ECHOING ALL OVER HARLEM.
KLAK
DANA, SWEET

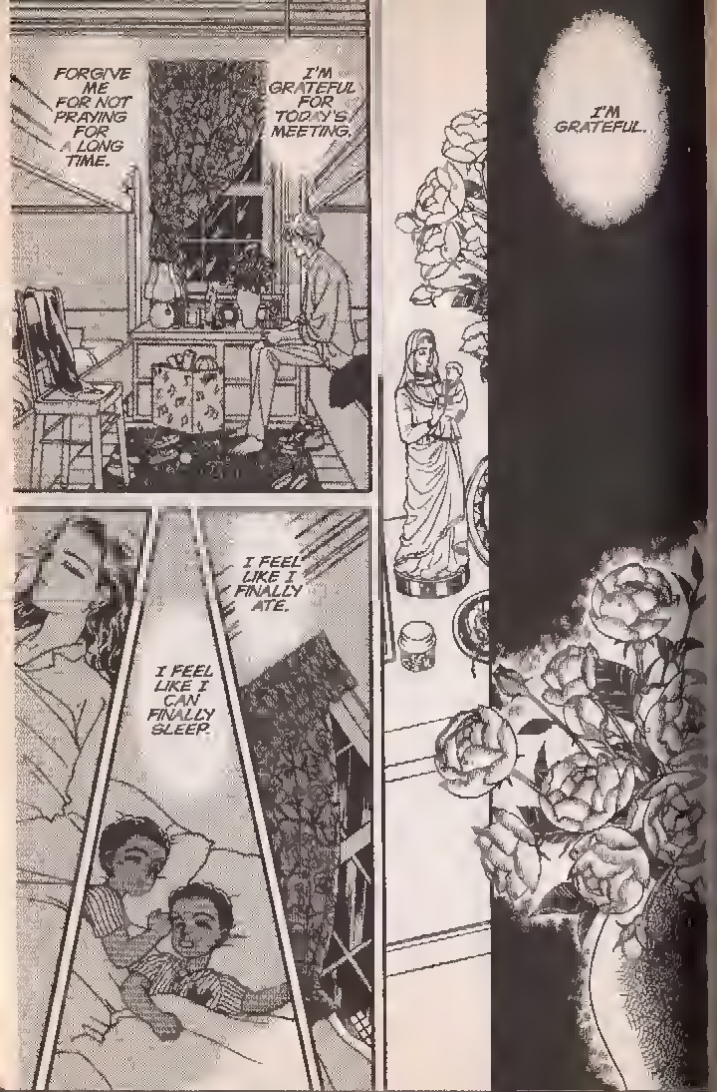

DANA!
WAU!
DANA! HOW 'BOUT A REQUEST?
WHAT A SOUL!
SMILE
DANA! "LITTLE BROWN JUG!"
ONE AT A TIME!
"TUXEDO JUNCTION!"
"MEMORIES!"

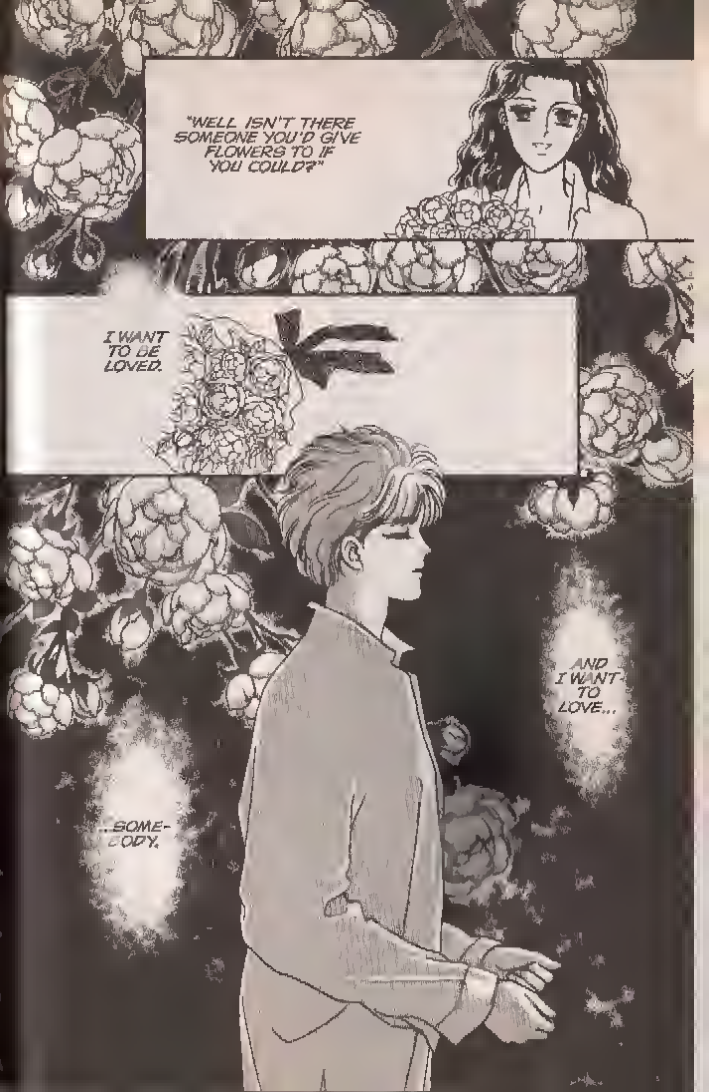

AH...
SON?
IT'S BEEN SO VERY LONG..

WHAT'S WRONG, SON? ARE YOU...
UM.

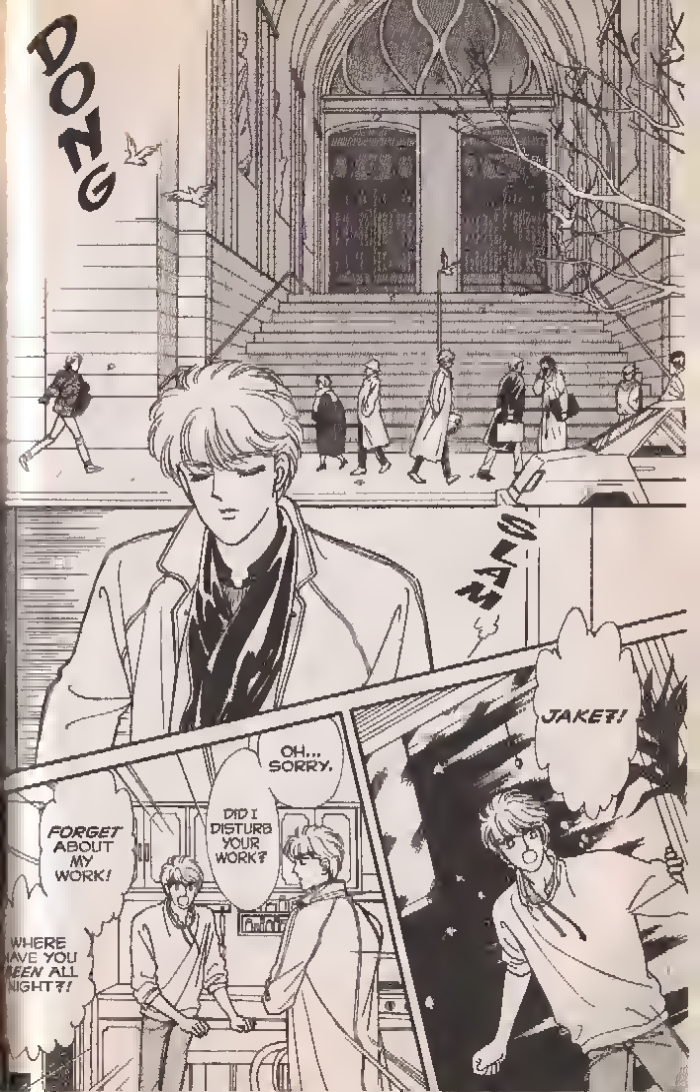

SUR-
PRISED
AREN'T
YOU?
BET
YOU
HAVEN'T
CRIED IN
A LONG
TIME.
.....
.....
YOUV'E
BEEN
REALLY
HUNGRY,
HAVEN'T
YOU?


JAKE.
WHAT IS IT?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME YET.
JAKE.
YOU STAY HERE TONIGHT.
STAY HERE TONIGHT.
SLEEP WELL, WITHOUT THINKING.


FORGIVE ME FOR NOT PRAYING FOR A LONG TIME.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR TODAY'S MEETING.
I'M GRATEFUL.
I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY ATE.
I FEEL LIKE I CAN FINALLY SLEEP.

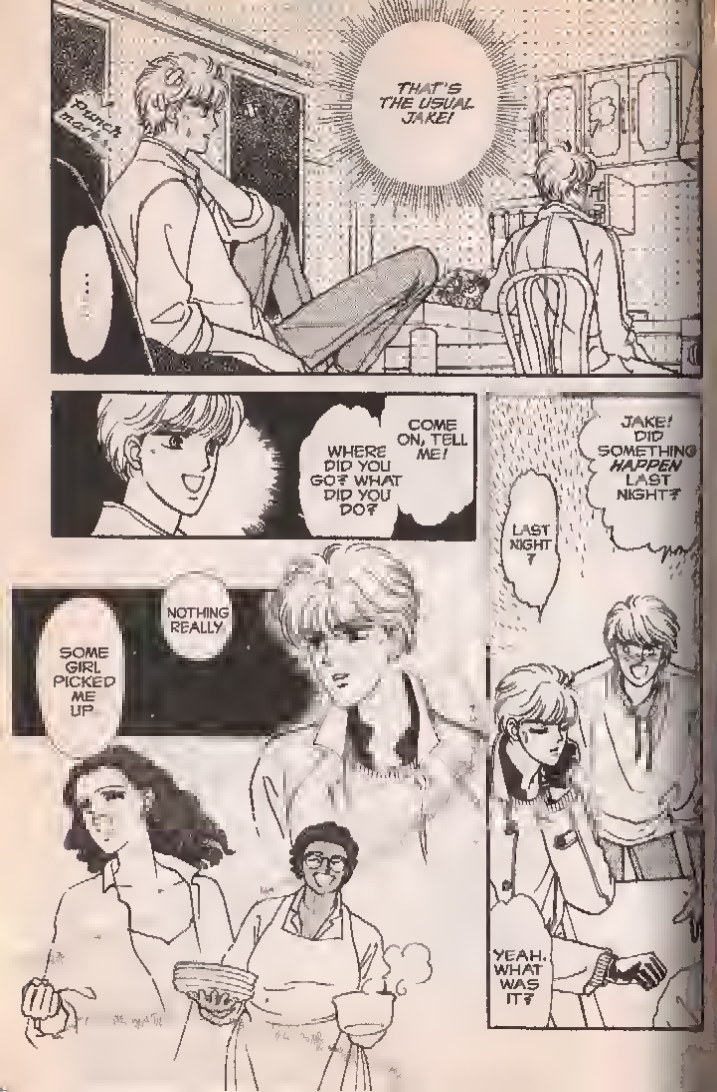

"WELL ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU'D GIVE FLOWERS TO IF YOU COULD?"
I WANT TO BE LOVED.
AND I WANT TO LOVE...
..SOME-BODY.

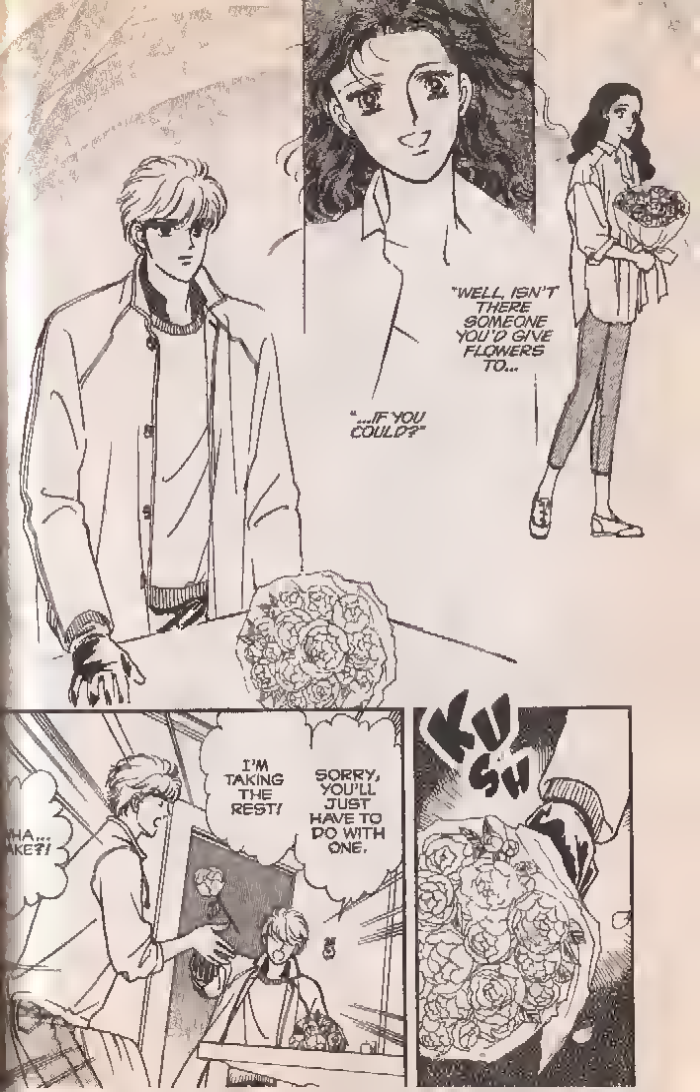
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG

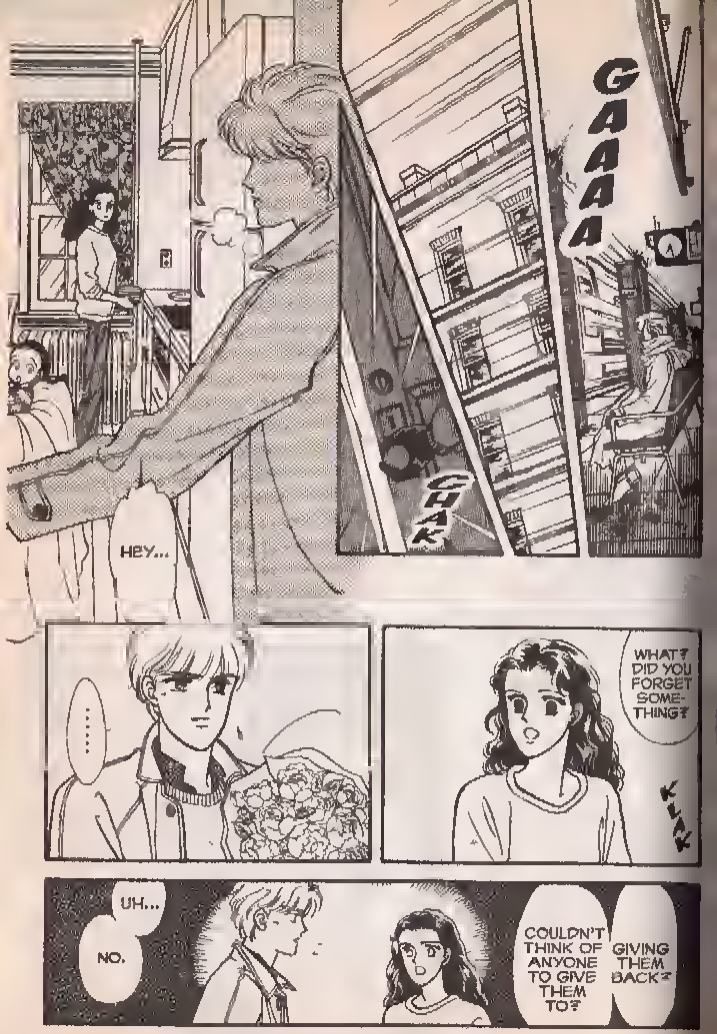

DONG
SLAM
JAKE?!
OH... SORRY.
DID I DISTURB YOUR WORK?
FORGET ABOUT MY WORK!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL NIGHT?!

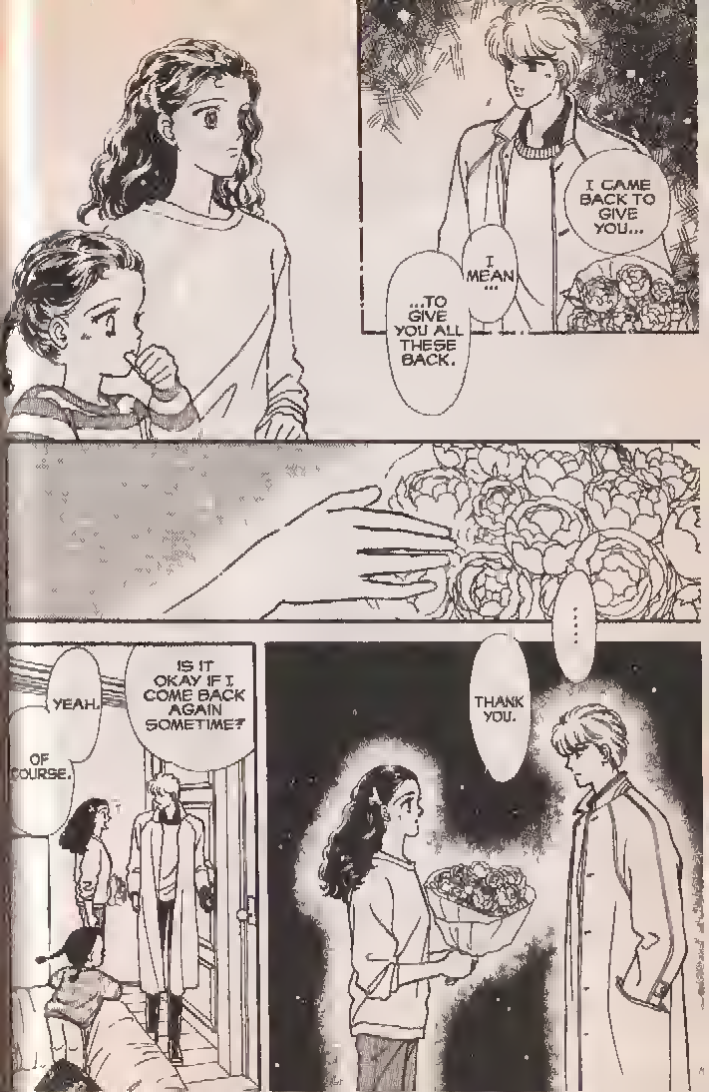
I THOUGHT YOU WERE LYING DEAD IN THE STREET.
REGARDLESS OF MY WORK, YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED ME!
WHAT'S WITH THE ANGRY LOOK? IT'S NOT STRANGE FOR ME TO STAY OUT ALL NIGHT.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE SO INVOLVED WITH YOUR WORK
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT STRANGE LATELY?
OH, DON'T BE SILLY..
...I WAS GOING TO CALL THE POLICE.
I CALLED EVERYONE I COULD THINK OF.
IF YOU WEREN'T BACK BY THE SCHOOL TIME...
FWA
SH!

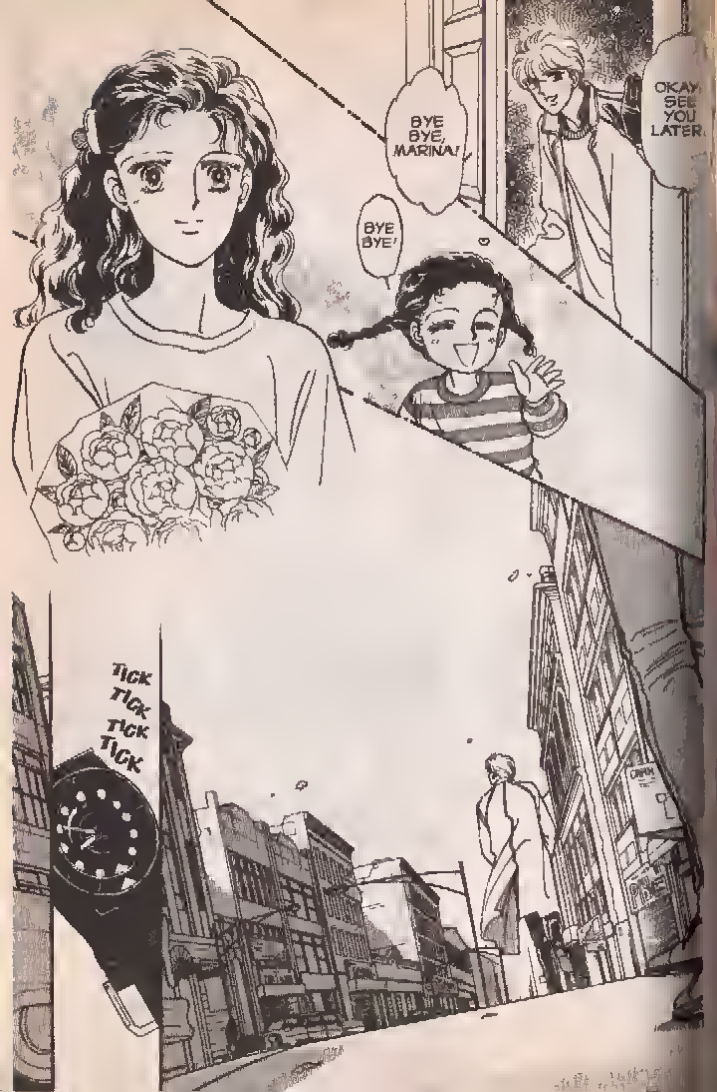
HERE.
ARE YOU PROPOSING?
SOMEONE GAVE THEM TO ME, SO I BROUGHT THEM HOME!
IDIOT!
GAH!
JAKE.
SO SHUT UP AND TAKE THEM!
THANK YOU.
I LOVE YOU.

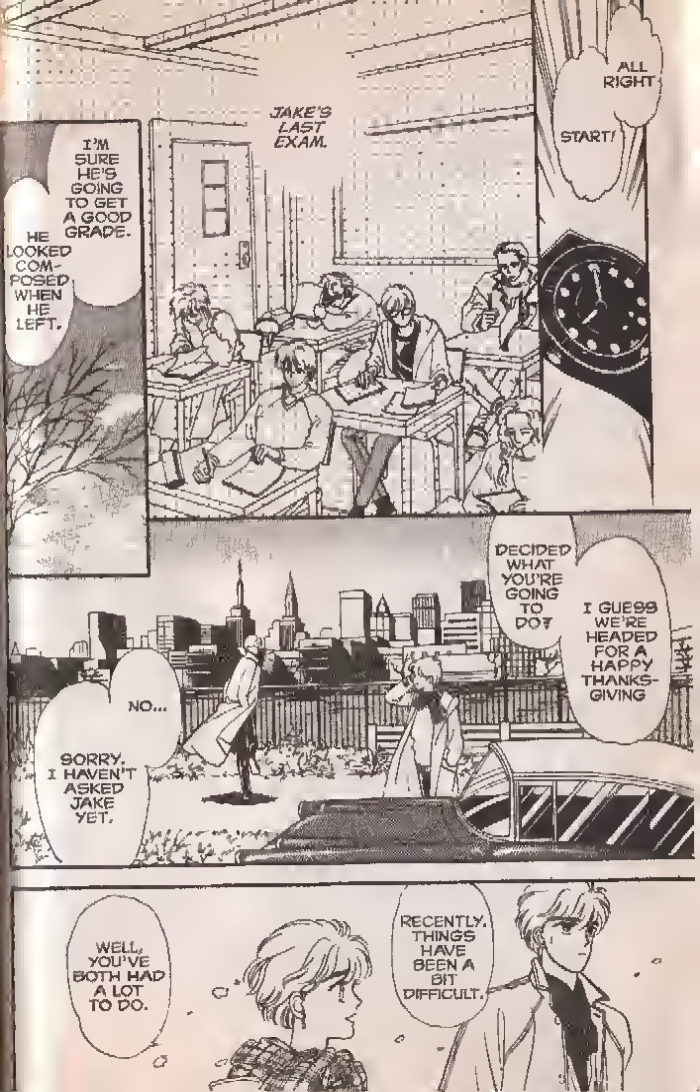

Sparks mark...
THAT'S THE USUAL JAKE!
...
COME ON, TELL ME!
WHERE DID YOU GO? WHAT DID YOU DO?
JAKE! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN LAST NIGHT?
LAST NIGHT ?
NOTHING REALLY.
SOME GIRL PICKED ME UP.
YEAH. WHAT WAS IT?


"WELL, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU'D GIVE FLOWERS TO...
"...IF YOU COULD?"
I'M TAKING THE REST!
SORRY, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DO WITH ONE.
KU SU


HEY...
GHAK
GAAAA
.....
WHAT? DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
KLINK
UH...
NO.
COULDN'T THINK OF ANYONE TO GIVE THEM TO?
GIVING THEM BACK?

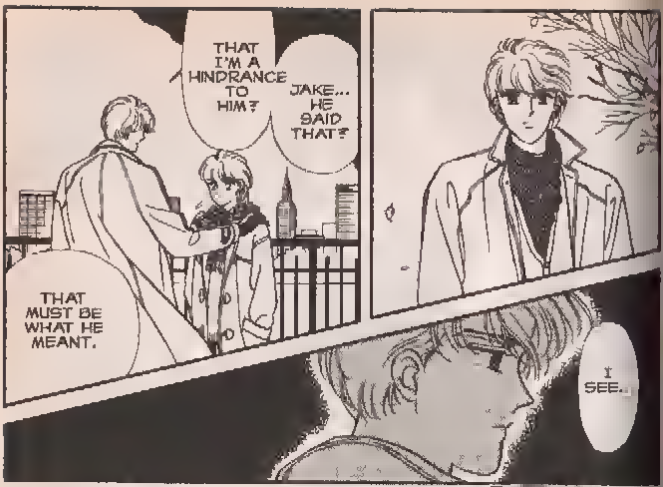

I CAME BACK TO GIVE YOU...
I MEAN...
...TO GIVE YOU ALL THESE BACK.
.....
THANK YOU.
IS IT OKAY IF I COME BACK AGAIN SOMETIME?
YEAH.
OF COURSE.


OKAY! SEE YOU LATER.
BYE BYE, MARINA!
BYE BYE!
TICK TICK TICK TICK

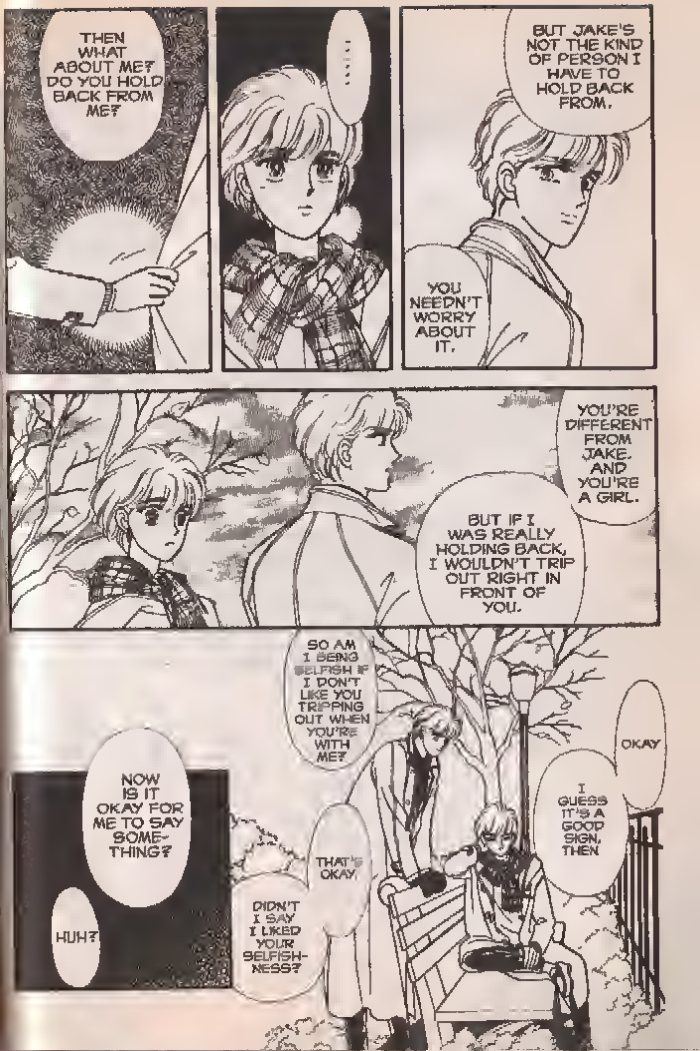

ALL RIGHT. START!
JAKE'S LAST EXAM.
I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO GET A GOOD GRADE.
HE LOOKED COMPOSED WHEN HE LEFT.
DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
I GUESS WE'RE HEADED FOR A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
NO...
SORRY. I HAVEN'T ASKED JAKE YET.
WELL, YOU'VE BOTH HAD A LOT TO DO.
RECENTLY, THINGS HAVE BEEN A BIT DIFFICULT.

HEY, CIPHER.
TRIP-PING ?
THINKING ABOUT YOUR WORK AGAIN?
CIPHER?
BUT YOU BETTER DECIDE SOON.
THANKS-GIVING IS NEXT THURSDAY.
OH, RIGHT
THANKS-GIVING ..
ANIBE?
OH, SORRY.
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

SORRY. THAT WAS SELFISH.
...IS WHAT I'M THINK-ING.
SOB
BUT WHEN YOU ASK ME ON A DATE, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS PAY ATTENTION TO ME, DUMMY!
ZZ
ING
WHEN YOU THINK OF WORK YOU'RE TOTALLY SERIOUS.
YOU GET THIS BROODING EXPRES-SION, AND YOU LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SELF-ISH.
I'M SORRY, REALLY!
REAL-LY?
YEAH, REALLY!
..THAT YOU CAN'T STAND IT WHEN PEOPLE WATCH YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING.
SIVA SAID...
HE SAID, HE WON'T LET ME WATCH HIM.
I'M NOT DISTURB-ING YOUR WORK, AM I?
NO, JUST THE OPPO-SITE.
I LIKE IT WHEN YOU'RE DOING WORK, TOO.


THAT I'M A HINDRANCE TO HIM?
JAKE... HE SAID THAT?
THAT MUST BE WHAT HE MEANT.
I SEE.

DAILY LIFE THINGS.. THINGS LIKE THE SUNLIGHT, OR EATING OR TALKING TO PEOPLE...
ANY-THING AND EVERY-THING BECOMES BOTHER-SOME.
EVEN JAKE CALLING ME TO DINNER.
BUT IT'S NO GOOD WHEN I'M SPAC-ING OUT...
FILMING IS LIKE MANUAL LABOR, SO I'M COOL WITH IT.
THAT MUST BE HOW HE SEES IT.


THEN WHAT ABOUT ME? DO YOU HOLD BACK FROM ME?
...
BUT JAKE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON I HAVE TO HOLD BACK FROM.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM JAKE. AND YOU'RE A GIRL.
BUT IF I WAS REALLY HOLDING BACK, I WOULDN'T TRIP OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
SO AM I BEING SELFISH IF I DON'T LIKE YOU TRIPPING OUT WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME?
OKAY
I GUESS IT'S A GOOD SIGN, THEN
NOW IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SAY SOMETHING?
HUH?
THAT'S OKAY.
DIDN'T I SAY I LIKED YOUR SELFISHNESS?

I'M... SORRY...
Hmph!
DON'T EVER CONFUSE ME WITH JAKE AGAIN!
DO YOU *WANT* TO BE TOLD APART?
.....
WE WORK SO HARD SO PEOPLE CAN'T TELL US APART.
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE
I'M *GLAD* YOU'RE SELFISH.
I SEE.
BY *YOU*... YES.

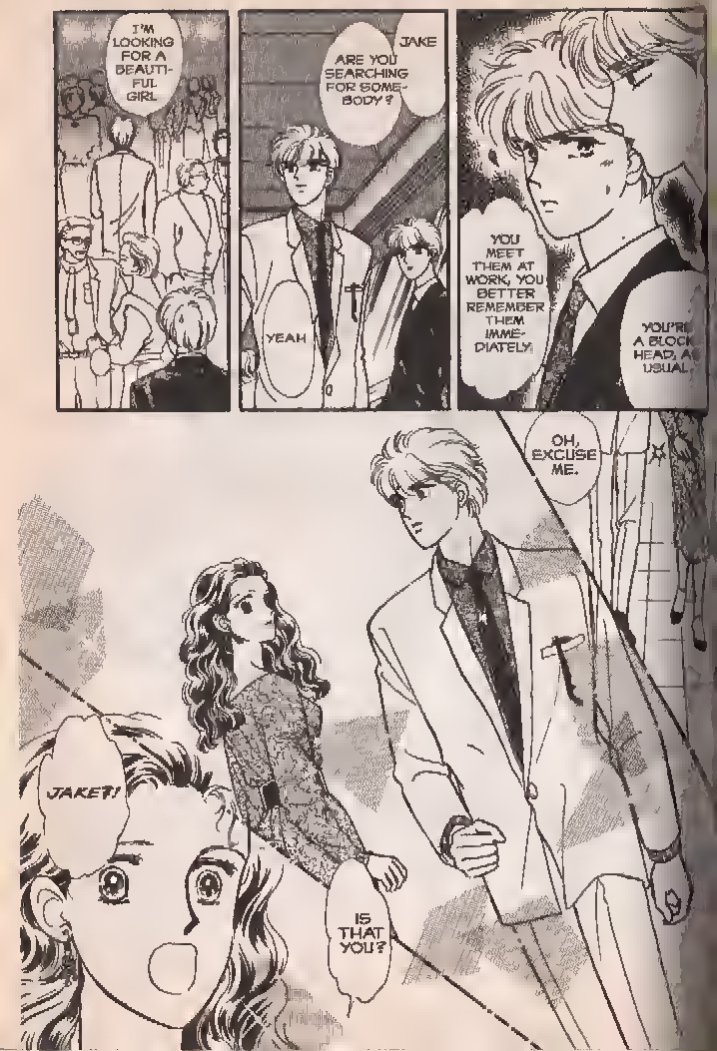
OR IF I HAD TO CHOSE BETWEEN JAKE AND THIS JOB?
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND THIS JOB, WHICH WOULD I PICK?
ANIGE..
I'D REALLY SUFFER.
I REALLY LIKE THIS JOB.
SO MUCH SO IT SCARES ME.

SHAA
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
JAKE,
CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?
MMM...
THIS IS A REALLY GREAT ROLE.
NOT MUCH STAGE TIME, BUT IT MAKES A REALLY STRONG IMPRESSION
HEY, MY SCRIPT!
THE NETWORK IS GOING TO BE PUTTING A LOT OF POWER BEHIND THIS MINISERIES, AREN'T THEY?
IT'S REALLY WORTH DOING, IT'S PERFECT FOR A LAST HURRAH.

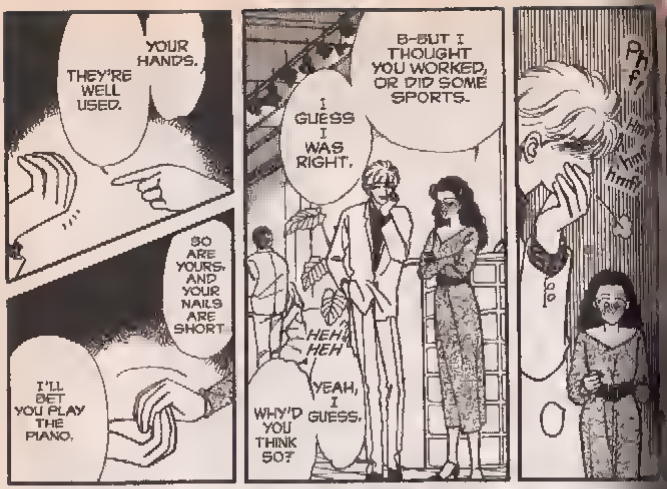
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT WORK TODAY,
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!
WHERE IS THE LOCA-TION?
THIS YEAR IT'S IN LONG ISLAND
NEXT YEAR, THERE'S A LITTLE IN CANADA.
I HATE PARTIES!
RUB RUB
TOMORROW IS THE PRESS PARTY, RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG? BUCK UP THERE.
WILL THERE BE PEOPLE THERE YOU KNOW?
THERE'S A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE TO MEET, THAT COULD CAUSE YOU TROUBLE LATER.
WELL... THE LOVER'S ROLE IS SOME NEW GIRL.
.....
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO?
WELL, I LIKE THEM.
THERE'S FOOD THERE WE DON'T HAVE TO COOK OURSELVES, AND PROBABLY SOME BEAUTIFUL GIRLS.

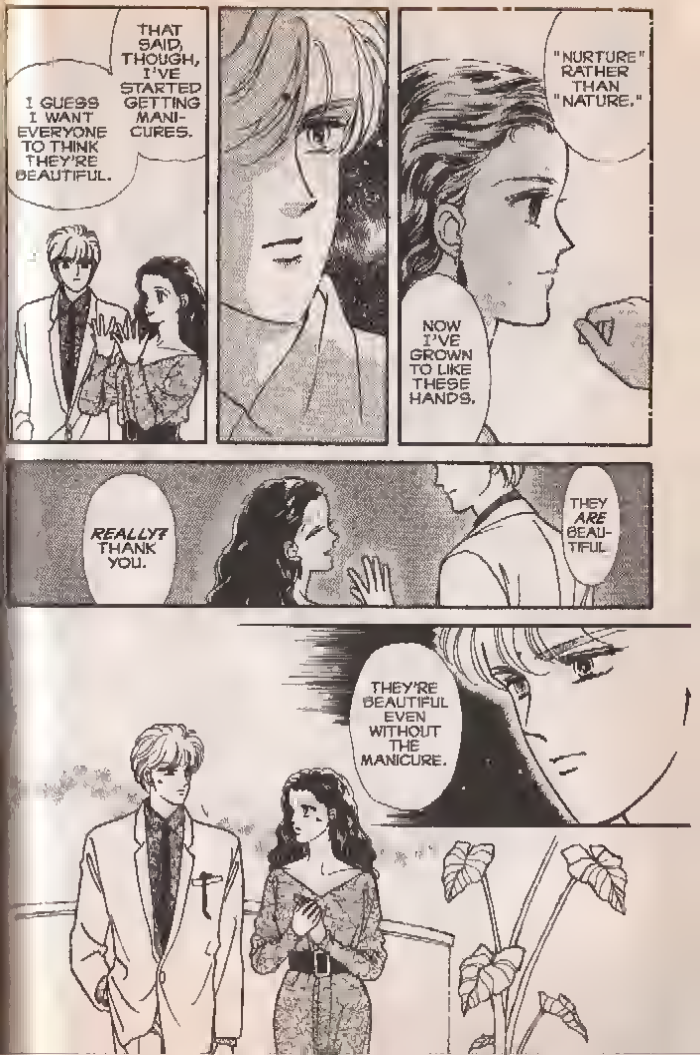
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO AUDITIONS TRYING TO GET JOBS."
THAT...
THAT PARTY... I WANNA GO!
"COULD IT BE...?"
I THINK HER NAME IS DANA JACKSON.
HEARD OF HER?
WE CAN GO TOGETHER! THAT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT?
YOU JUST SAID IF I DON'T GO, IT'LL BE TROUBLE.
JAKE?!
IF POSSIBLE, I..
...LET ME BE "JAKE."

DIREC-TOR-- JOHN HEID.
SEE THAT GIRL BESIDE HIM?
THE ACTOR, KAREN LEEWAY.
NEXT TO HER IS THE COLUMNIST, NICK BATES.
THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE "YOU'VE" MET. GOT IT?
THE BLOND OVER THERE IS...?
THE WRITER!
NO, DUMMY IT'S AN ACTOR.

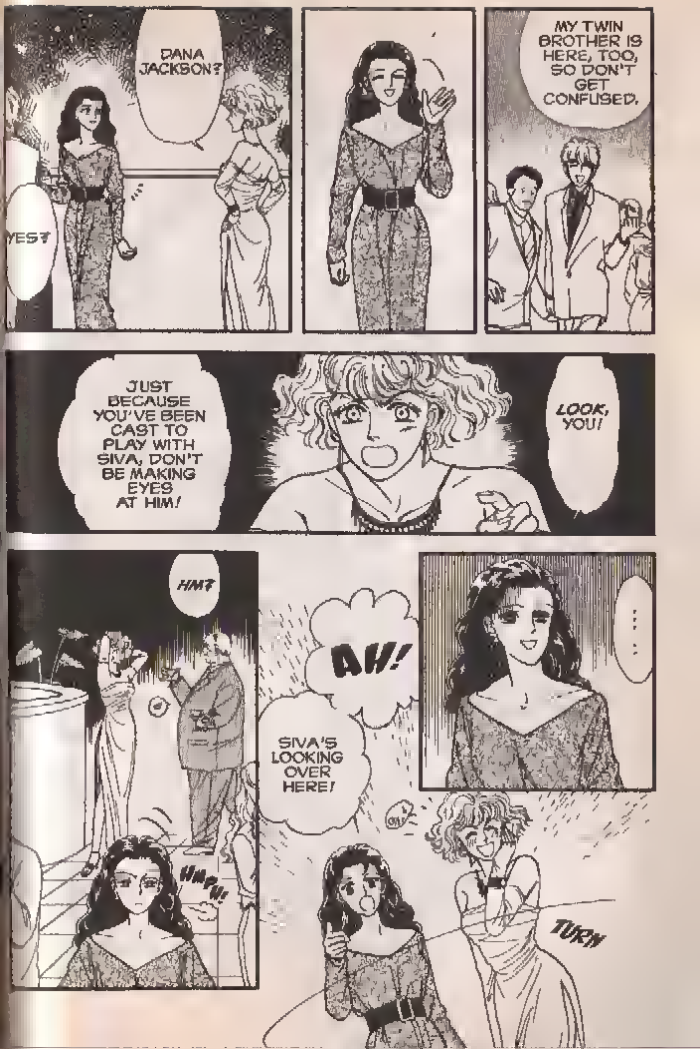

I'M LOOKING FOR A BEAUTIFUL GIRL
JAKE
ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR SOMEBODY?
YEAH
YOU MEET THEM AT WORK, YOU BETTER REMEMBER THEM IMMEDIATELY!
YOU'RE A BLOCK HEAD, AS USUAL.
OH, EXCUSE ME.
JAKE?!
IS THAT YOU?

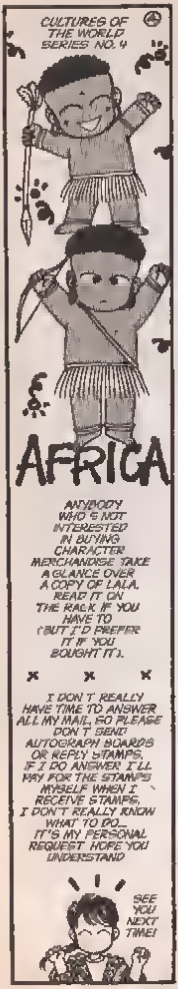
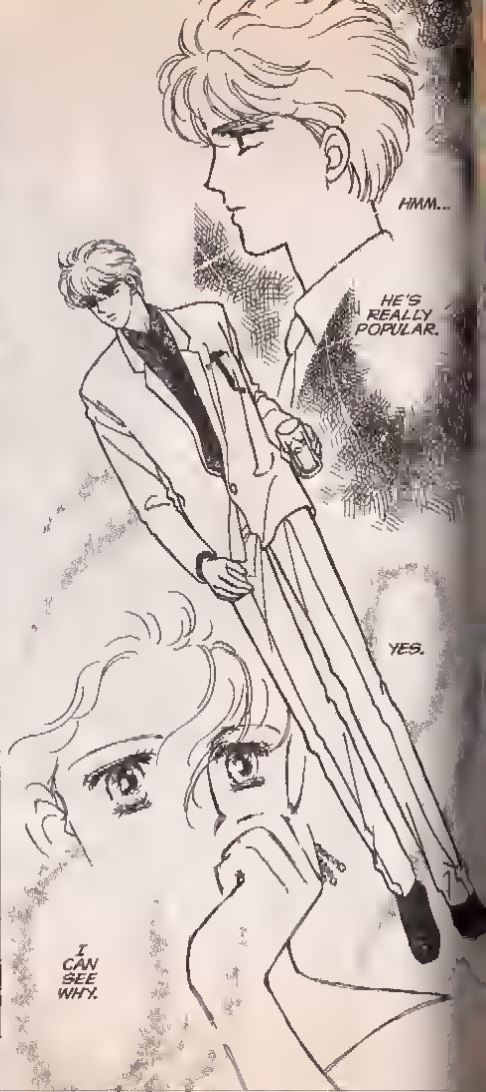
JAKE IS MY REAL NAME.
MY STAGE NAME IS "SIVA."
SO IT WAS DANA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ARE YOU WITH THE CREW?
UH ...
ARE WE IN THE SAME BUSINESS?
OUR T.V. IS OLD!
THE IMAGES STARTED WARPING THREE YEARS AGO.
THANKS ... REALLY?
OF COURSE!
I WATCHED THAT WHOLE T.V. SERIES YOU WERE ON.
OH... OH MY GOD!


YOUR HANDS.
THEY'RE WELL USED.
SO ARE YOURS, AND YOUR NAILS ARE SHORT.
I'LL BET YOU PLAY THE PIANO.
B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU WORKED, OR DID SOME SPORTS.
I GUESS I WAS RIGHT.
HEH, HEH
YEAH, I GUESS.
WHY'D YOU THINK SO?
Ah!
Hmm
Hmm
Hmm
BACK THEN, MY HANDS WERE MUCH PRETTIER.
ONLY A LITTLE, WHEN I WAS A CHILD
WHEN I SAW MY PARENTS' SHORT FINGERNAILS, I THOUGHT, "I'M GLAD MY HANDS AREN'T UGLY LIKE THAT."
WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHERS AND MY SISTER WERE BORN, AND MAMA STARTING WORKING...
I STARTED HELPING WITH THE HOUSEWORK, AND GRADUALLY MY HANDS STARTED RESEMBLING THEIRS.
BUT HANDS CHANGE WITH THE PASSING YEARS.


I GUESS I WANT EVERYONE TO THINK THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.
THAT SAID, THOUGH, I'VE STARTED GETTING MANI-CURES.
"NURTURE" RATHER THAN "NATURE."
NOW I'VE GROWN TO LIKE THESE HANDS.
REALLY? THANK YOU.
THEY ARE BEAU-TIFUL.
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL EVEN WITHOUT THE MANICURE.

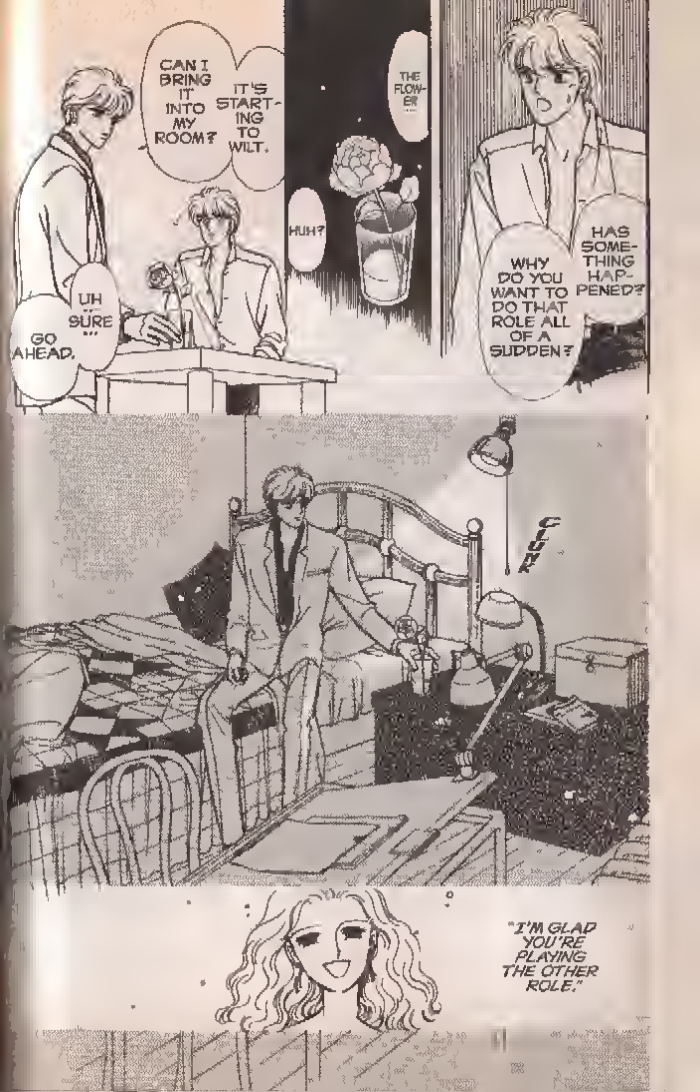
THANK YOU!
I'LL ENJOY WORKING WITH YOU.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE PLAYING THE OTHER ROLE!
YES, SAME HERE.
AH, THERE YOU ARE.
SIVA!
THIS TIME IT'S THE REAL THING.
YOU'RE NOT THE YOUNGER BROTHER, RIGHT?
YES.
I'VE GOT SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
SEE YOU LATER, DANA.
BYE.

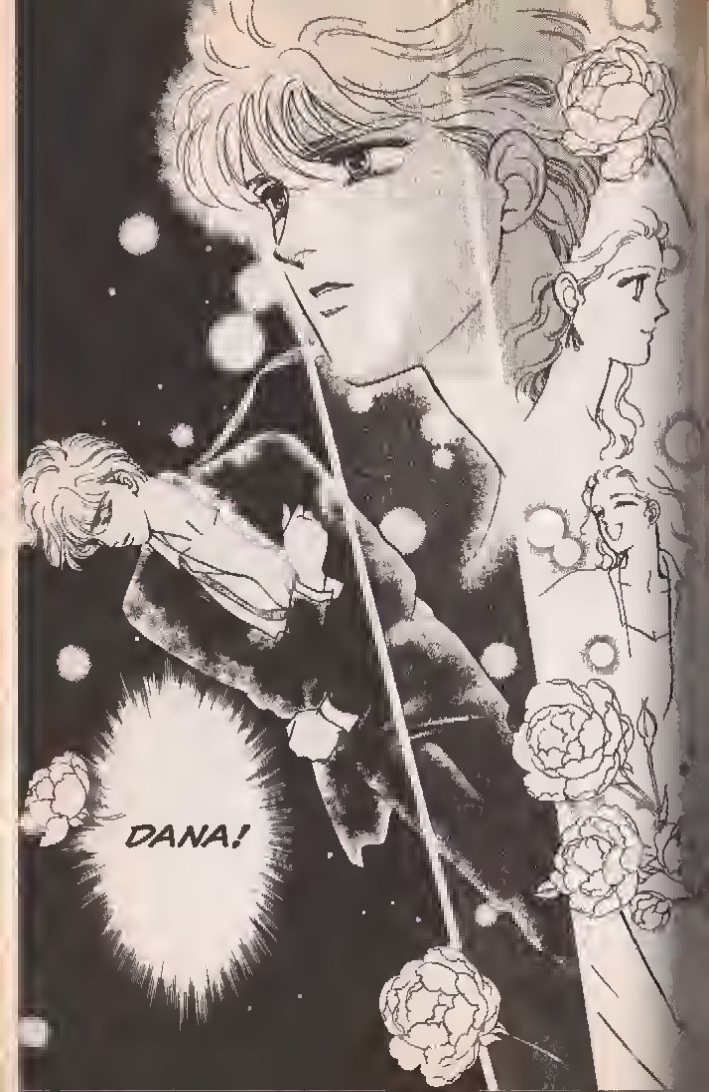

DANA JACKSON?
YES?
MY TWIN BROTHER IS HERE, TOO, SO DON'T GET CONFUSED.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN CAST TO PLAY WITH SIVA, DON'T BE MAKING EYES AT HIM!
LOOK, YOU!
HM?
HMPH!
AH!
SIVA'S LOOKING OVER HERE!
...
OH!
TURN


CULTURES OF THE WORLD SERIES NO. 4
AFRICA
ANYBODY WHO'S NOT INTERESTED IN BUYING CHARACTER MERCHANDISE TAKE A GLANCE OVER A COPY OF LALA. READ IT ON THE RACK IF YOU HAVE TO (BUT I'D PREFER IT IF YOU BOUGHT IT).
I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO ANSWER ALL MY MAIL, SO PLEASE DON'T SEND AUTOGRAPH BOARDS OR REPLY STAMPS. IF I DO ANSWER I'LL PAY FOR THE STAMPS MYSELF WHEN I RECEIVE STAMPS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO DO. IT'S MY PERSONAL REQUEST. HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

HMM...
HE'S REALLY POPULAR.
YES.
I CAN SEE WHY.

HUH?!
JAKE, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO SUDDENLY?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
I WANT YOU TO SAY IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO DO IT.
I FEEL A LITTLE LIKE GIVING THIS PART A TRY.
WELL THEN, FORGET ABOUT IT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS? UP TILL NOW, YOU'VE SAID YOU HAVE NO INTEREST IN ACTING!
I WANT TO DO THIS PART A LOT, NOT A LITTLE!

.....
JAKE ...
YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.
I WAS JUST KIDDING.
SLUMP
DO YOU THINK I'M A GOOD GUY?
WHAT... WHAT, SO SUD-DENLY
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
DON'T MAKE SUCH A STRANGE FACE.
FORGET ABOUT MY FACE! DON'T SAY THAT LOOKING AT ME!


CAN I BRING IT INTO MY ROOM?
IT'S STARTING TO WILT.
UH SURE... GO AHEAD.
THE FLOWER...
HUH?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT ROLE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
FIGHT
"I'M GLAD YOU'RE PLAYING THE OTHER ROLE."


DANA!